

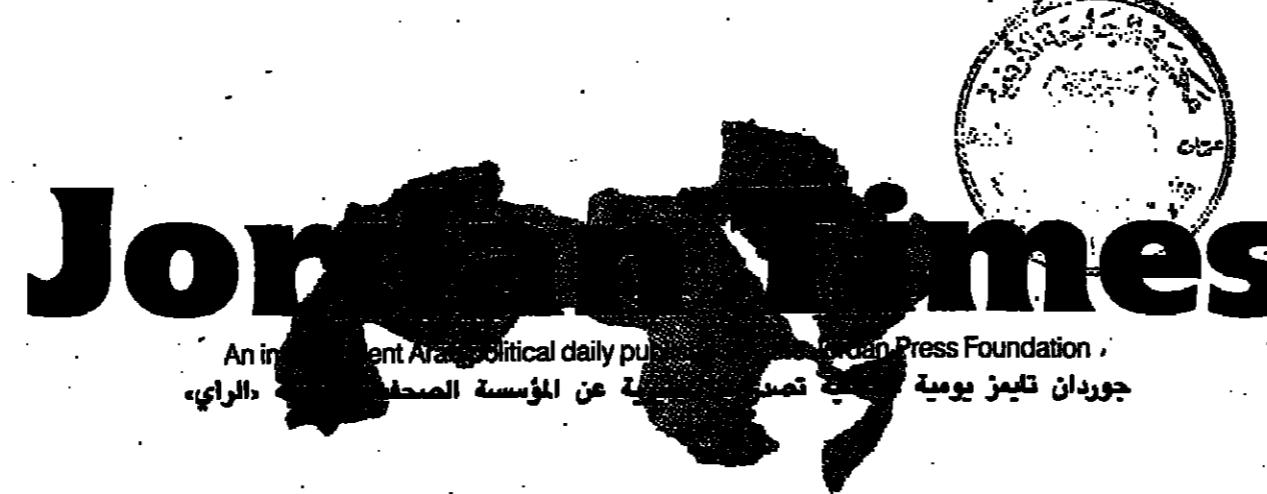
Kuwaitis return home from Tehran

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — A Kuwaiti delegation that spent a week in Tehran to examine six Airbus planes seized by Iraq and flown to Iran for safekeeping during the Gulf war has returned, a Kuwait airways official said Monday. The spokesman for the national carrier, Abdulla Al Naseef, said the delegation flew back Saturday. He declined to release any information on the group's findings. "The matter is now in the hands of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the council of ministers," Mr. Naseef said by telephone. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to comment on the trip. Out of 15 planes taken by Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait, two have been returned to the emirate, a Boeing 727 and a small nine-seater jet. Seven other jets were destroyed during allied bombing of Iraq, according to Richard Foran, a U.N. diplomat who visited Kuwait last month. Iraq flew more than 100 civilian and military aircraft to Iran during the war, presumably in hopes they could be recovered after the fighting. Iran has said it was returning the Kuwait-owned planes to the emirate. Sawt Al Kuwait (Voice of Kuwait) quoted sources at the Ministry of Foreign affairs as saying it was "too early to discuss the details of the findings." The sources told the daily that the delegation may pay more visits to Iran.

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Sheikh Zayed begins visit to Paris

PARIS (AP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Paris Monday for an official visit including talks on post-war security in the Gulf region. Sheikh Zayed will meet President Francois Mitterrand, Premier Edith Cresson and other politicians during his three-day visit. Topics will include post-Gulf war security among the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Kuwait receives 58 POWs freed by Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq freed 58 prisoners of war (POWs), including 25 Kuwaitis, and returned them to Kuwait Monday, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported. It said they included 26 women but gave no breakdown of the other nationalities. Kuwait says Iraq is still holding more than 2,000 Kuwaiti citizens.

Court orders amputations for two Sudanese

KHARTOUM (AP) — A Sudanese court ordered hands amputated from two men convicted of stealing food, an official newspaper reported Monday. The sentences are the first since such harsh penalties under Sudan's Islamic criminal code were restored last March. The newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watani said the supreme court in Sennar, central Sudan, found Adam Mohammad Adam and Hussein Abdul Karim guilty of stealing wheat and sugar from a store. When the alleged crime occurred, the men were at large after escaping from a prison where they were serving a two-year sentence for breaking into the same shop. The amputation sentence has been submitted to the high court in Khartoum for review, the newspaper said.

U.N. sets up first post in Sahara

SMARA, Western Sahara (R) — Twelve soldiers from the United Nations peace-keeping force left this dusty desert town Monday to set up the first of a dozen observation posts to monitor a ceasefire in Western Sahara. The Venezuelan and Peruvian "Blue Berets" flew by helicopter to the oasis of Agoumti, 900 kilometres south of Smara, in a remote area near the Mauritanian border, U.N. officials said. A second post is to be set up at Ansard, 140 kilometres to the east of Agoumti. Others will be located in the northern part of the territory which was the scene of fighting last month between Polisario guerrillas and the Moroccan army.

Talks open on biological weapons

GENEVA (AP) — Members of a 117-nation pact outlawing the means for germ warfare met Monday to review the treaty's success and discuss ways to tighten its provisions. Government experts at the three-week review conference of the 1972 Biological Weapons Treaty were expected to consider new proposals for so-called confidence building measures, diplomats said.

Court acquits Bhutto's husband

KARACHI (R) — A Pakistani court Monday cleared opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari of a third charge of helping to arrange illegal bank loans, his lawyer said. Mr. Zardari remains in jail on other charges. He was cleared Monday of mimicking an overseas branch of a state-run bank to lend £17.1 million to a friend without the required collateral. A two-judge bench of the Sindh province high court quashed the charge, Mr. Zardari's lawyer Raja Qureshi said. A detailed judgement would be issued later. In May, two other courts acquitted Mr. Zardari of fixing unsecured loans worth \$6.4 million. He still faces nine charges, including abduction and conspiracy to murder 30 opponents of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Palestinians will elect their representatives to peace conference — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that the Palestinians themselves will elect their representatives to the proposed Middle East peace conference in October and that the issue of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the meeting has not been finalised yet.

"...We are in agreement with our friends in the world, particularly the understanding we have is that the Palestinians will elect their representatives to the conference," the King said in an American television interview. "We have offered an umbrella of a joint delegation to attend the conference where the Palestinians will represent themselves regarding their dimension of the problem with Israel," the King said in the interview, broadcast on NBC News Today.

"We will...represent ourselves and our interests, and we will be working on a third level, which is

the regional level," the King told interviewer Bryant Gumble. "So until now, nothing is very clear as to the formation of the delegation," he added.

The King, who is currently on a visit to Europe, also said he was "very hopeful" that the conference would be convened as scheduled and that he was looking forward to the visit later this month to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"The least said the better," the King replied when asked to comment on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's assertion that his country would not attend the proposed conference if he was not satisfied with the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Jordan rules out members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab East Jerusalem Palestinians as negotiators in the conference. The Palestinians have rejected the precondition.

Following are NBC's questions and the King's answers in the interview broadcast Monday:

Q: You have supported the idea of a peace conference. At this point, how do you view the likelihood of holding the conference?

A: I am very hopeful that it will be realised, I think that this is an important moment in history in terms of the world and certainly in terms of our region. Although all the details are not available to me, I look forward to the visit of Secretary of State James Baker and I hope that we will move that much closer to the realisation of a dream beginning with the conference and the peace process in the very near future.

Q: Although you have already agreed to attend the peace conference, Your Majesty, you are still awaiting the PLO's approval to form a joint delegation with the Palestinians. If the Palestinians choose not to attend the conference, will you?

A: The answer is that we are in agreement with our friends in the world, particularly the understanding we have is that the Palestinians will elect their representatives to this conference. So until now nothing is very clear as to the formation of the delegation.

"But if there is a process for



joint delegation to attend the conference where the Palestinians will represent themselves regarding their dimension of the problem with Israel. We will, of course in Jordan with all Jordanians, represent ourselves and our interests, and we will be working on a third level, which is the regional level. So until now nothing is very clear as to the formation of the delegation.

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir threatens to reverse acceptance of peace parley

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir raised the stakes in Israel's battle with Washington over loan guarantees Monday, saying Israel would stay away from a Middle East peace conference if the Palestinian delegates did not meet its conditions.

Palestinian representation has been the remaining obstacle to a peace conference scheduled for October but Israel has previously avoided spelling out what it would do if it does not like the Palestinian delegates.

Asked on Israel Radio whether Israel would change its response to the U.S. peace initiative from positive to negative if the issue was not resolved, Mr. Shamir replied:

"The yes (we gave) will not be a yes. We said this is one of the conditions. We must agree to the composition of the Palestinian representation."

Israel has insisted the delegation must not include residents of Arab East Jerusalem and no Palestinians associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinian issue has come to the surface again in the days since U.S. President George Bush asked Congress last Friday to delay considering Israel's request that the United States guarantee loans worth \$10 billion in these areas of Eretz Israel.

Israeli officials say it is the main obstacle to the conference,

not the loan guarantees.

Mr. Bush wants to get the peace conference off the ground in October before discussing the aid, and reportedly insists Israel stop settlement construction before the talks.

Mr. Shamir sharply rejected the American position.

"We don't accept... that you can link humanitarian aid on the highest moral level and certain political steps over which there may be some differences of opinion," he said in an interview taped over the weekend and broadcast Monday on Israel Radio.

Mr. Shamir also insisted that the Americans "are obliged, from a moral point of view, to give Israel this aid."

Mr. Shamir avoided response when asked about the government's specific plans for Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But he added: "The main thing is that, with the help of God, the Israeli population will keep growing, including in these areas of Eretz Israel."

On Sunday, he told supporters of his right-wing Likud bloc that "all the territories of Eretz Israel must be settled by Jews, more and more."

Washington considers the Jewish settlements a major obstacle to peace. Israel has settled some 100,000 Jews in the occupied territories.

In Tunis a senior PLO official said Palestinian representation would not be a problem if East Jerusalem was represented at the conference. Jerusalem was on the agenda and all the parties gave guarantees they would take to apply international law.

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian dies of wounds suffered in Israeli army raid

Palestinian killed in Jenin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian who was shot and wounded during a raid by Israeli forces earlier this week has died of his wounds, the army said Monday.

Ahmad Said Bayer Kamel, 35, died late Sunday and was buried in the West Bank village of Qabatiya early Monday. Hundreds of villagers took to the streets in protest, ignoring an army-imposed curfew, Palestinian reporters said.

Mr. Kamel was shot by plainclothes Israeli forces Friday in the nearby village of Maghawayir, the Palestinian reporters said. The Israeli had entered the village in a Mercedes with West Bank license plates to arrest Mr. Kamel and other activists.

An army official confirmed that Mr. Kamel was shot by security forces, but would not give details of the raid. It said Mr. Kamel suffered moderate wounds.

Mr. Kamel was shot twice through the buttocks in an upward direction and the bullets tore his stomach, said a doctor at an Israeli hospital where he was treated.

The army official said Mr. Kamel was an activist in Fatah.

Throughout the occupied territories, Palestinians Monday observed a general strike called by uprising leaders to mark the 45th month since the start of the revolt.

For a second day Monday, the army sealed the occupied territories, barring Palestinians from entering Israel to prevent resistance activities during the Jewish new year. The closure is in effect until

"I cannot say, at this point and before hearing what (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker has to say during his next visit, if this is the beginning of a new policy which links aid to advice."

For a long time, Europe and the United States have been offering Israel advice and aid, but Israel accepts the aid and rejects the advice," Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said in an interview Monday with the Arabic Al Fajr newspaper.

"His visit is not taking place in the context of the Middle East settlement and is not in preparation for the Middle East peace conference... Primakov is going to Independence Day, and they renamed Lenin Square in central Dushanbe as Freedom Square.

Crown Prince says Jordan will not go it alone to peace conference

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said that Jordan will not "go it alone" and reach a separate peace with Israel in the forthcoming peace negotiations. But he warned that the Kingdom "must not be left alone" to suffer the repercussions of regional political, economic and demographic turbulences.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, Crown Prince Hassan said

that Jordan considered the Arab-Israeli conflict as a regional problem that has to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner and through the cooperation and coordination of all parties concerned.

This is a basic principle of the Jordanian position, when we talk about problems that are inherently interlinked, such as the water problems, we must be very cautious.

Prince Hassan said pressures were continuing against Jordan,

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan needs \$4.5b in 5 years to absorb returnees, Fariz says

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan will need at least \$4.5 billion within the next five years to cope with the huge population increase which resulted from the Gulf crisis, Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz has said.

The population has grown 10 per cent since the crisis, compared with a normal increase of 3.5 per cent, because hundreds of thousands of Jordanians have come home from the Gulf, mostly from Kuwait and many in the last few months.

"Jordan has to secure at least \$4.5 billion (JD 3.1 billion) over the next three to five years just to safeguard the current standard of services," Dr. Fariz said.

Dr. Fariz told Reuters in an interview late Sunday that preliminary studies called for an estimated JD 2.55 billion (\$3.7 billion) for capital investment in housing, health, transport, water, sewage and education to absorb the returnees.

The rest of the \$4.5 billion would be to cover the recurring costs of capital projects.

The figures are Jordan's first public account of its needs since

Ziad Fariz

the Kingdom, which has a foreign debt of \$8 billion, launched an appeal for international help in resettling the returnees.

Some economists say the returnees, most of them unemployed, have pushed the jobless rate to over 25 per cent from the pre-Gulf crisis level of 17 per cent.

Dr. Fariz said the investment cost of resettling each returnee, including housing and job creation, was about JD 10,500 (\$15,000).

(Continued on page 5)

Primakov due in Mideast on trip 'unrelated' to peace

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev is sending two top envoys to Germany and the Middle East to seek economic help in a clear sign the Kremlin is increasingly worried about shortages this winter.

Chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a briefing Monday that Mr. Gorbachev hopes a meeting by the foreign ministers of the five countries neighbouring Israel could be convened in the Egyptian capital on the sidelines of the council meeting to discuss the peace process.

"We hope that such a meeting will lead to a summit grouping the heads of state of these countries," the minister said.

In reply to a question on the Egyptian government's decision to impose visa restrictions on Jordanian visitors of Egypt, Dr. Churkin said that since the publication of the Jordanian White Paper, which sheds light on the Kingdom's position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, most of them Jordanians of Palestinian origin, after the Gulf war ended.

Chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a briefing Monday that Mr. Gorbachev would be sending Alexander Yakovlev to Germany and Yevgeny Primakov to six countries distributed to all Arab states.

"The aim of the visits is to see what can be generated in terms of cooperation with these countries in order to alleviate the economic situation against Jordan," the minister said.

He said Jordan was surprised to hear of the Egyptian decision to impose visa restrictions on Jordanians. "Such a move would create inconvenience and complications to all visitors in general and the students in particular," he said.

Jordan, the minister added, will not respond with a similar move although the Kingdom has more than 150,000 Egyptian workers.

Dr. Churkin stressed that Amman was keen on treating the Egyptian workers on equal footing with Jordanian citizens.

The minister said he hoped to discuss the matter with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa.

Lebanese priority

Reuter adds from Beirut: Foreign Minister Faris Bouez left for Cairo Monday to press for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and international aid to repair war damage.

"His visit is not taking place in the context of the Middle East settlement and is not in preparation for the Middle East peace conference... Primakov is going to Independence Day, and they renamed Lenin Square in central Dushanbe as Freedom Square."

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher led a procession of foreign ministers lining up to meet President Gorbachev Monday to take stock of the new shape of the Soviet Union.

After Mr. Genscher saw Mr. Gorbachev in the Kremlin, diplomatic sources said he was preparing to adapt German policy to the looser federation of republics gradually taking shape under a plan agreed by Soviet legislators last week.

He and a clutch of other ministers including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are taking advantage of the start of a human rights conference Tuesday to meet not only Mr. Gorbachev but the union's new men of power, the republican leaders.

The new shape of the union still by no means firmly set, continued to develop when the politically conservative Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, on the Afghan border, declared independence.

It became the ninth republic to declare independence since the right-wing coup last month that shattered the mould of the Soviet Union.

The independence declaration by the republic's parliament was largely symbolic, given the decision last week to transform the Soviet Union into a loose confederation of sovereign states.

"We can't lag behind other republics. Everybody is declaring independence so we are as well," said parliamentary spokesman Aleksey Abdurashidov.

Tajikistan is a largely mountainous republic bordering China and Afghanistan.

The United Nations has several hundred guards trying to instill confidence among refugees who have returned after fleeing a rebellion in March. Officials of other U.N. relief agencies are also in the country.

A spokesman in London for the opposition party Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, accusing Iraq of fresh military attacks on Kurdish

U.N. reports clashes in north Iraq

Persistent splits cloud Arab League talks

CAIRO (AP) — Lingering fallout from the Gulf war and other inter-Arab differences are likely to cloud a meeting of Arab foreign ministers opening in Cairo Tuesday.

The ministers, sitting as the 21-member Arab League Council, may see heated exchanges between Iraq and Kuwait, league officials said.

But based on the meeting's agenda, significant decisions on the Gulf or other major topics are unlikely.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the agenda, which was not circulated. It includes nothing on the aftermath of the Gulf war, in which a U.S.-led coalition pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait last February after a seven-month occupation.

The invasion caused the worst split in Arab ranks since the league was founded 46 years ago. The anti-Iraq alliance included Egypt and eight other Arab states. The rest of league membership was divided into open supporters of Iraq, those who opposed the military option.

Arab diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraq or Kuwait may raise at the ministerial conference some aspects of the Gulf crisis aftermath.

They cited as likely subjects recent claims and counter-claims about an Iraqi military incursion into Kuwait and about the number of Kuwaiti prisoners being held by Iraq.

Kuwait reported that more than 80 Iraqi civilians and soldiers were caught Aug. 28 trying to infiltrate its strategic Buwayih Island, near the mouth of Iraq's Shatt Al Arar river, on orders from Baghdad. Iraq denied this and U.N. observers said they could not confirm that it was a military raid.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said last Thursday that Kuwait is holding 99 purported Iraqi infiltrators and that Red Cross representatives had seen them.

Nabil Najim, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Cairo-based league, said he informed the organization that Kuwait fabricated the Buwayih incident. He said the motive was to justify

continuing an international economic blockade against his country imposed after the invasion.

Mr. Najim also denied Kuwaiti claims that Iraq still holds almost 2,500 Kuwaiti prisoners of war. He said Iraq had repatriated all Kuwaiti war prisoners totalling 6,333 by mid-July but that 3,400 Kuwaitis remain in Iraq "as residents, not prisoners." They have expressed a desire to return home, he said, but Kuwait has agreed to accept only 170.

As of now, Iraq has requested inclusion of the Buwayih and prisoner issues on the ministerial agenda, Mr. Najim said.

"We shall see how the meeting goes," he said. "Naturally, if Kuwait raises these questions, we shall."

League officials said that, as in last March's ministerial session in Cairo, efforts will be made to keep the Gulf question off the floor to avoid acrimony. Egypt and other moderate members as well as the league's Egyptian secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, are expected to lead this effort.

Officials said the ministerial conference is expected to do little on the Palestinian problem, the most important item on the agenda, beyond reiterating known platitudes.

They said this is due mainly to the absence of an official Palestinian position on representation in a Middle East peace conference. The conference is proposed for next month under the joint auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Palestine National Council is to decide on representation at a meeting planned for later this month.

Israel wants to exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and East Jerusalem Palestinians from negotiations.

PLO officials publicly reject the conditions. Key Arab states like Egypt want the PLO to be flexible, which has caused friction.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said in a Tunisian newspaper interview published Sunday that PLO attempts to coordinate with Arab partners "have not achieved their anticipated goal."

No sign of searchers Of Ark.

ANKARA (AP) — Kurdish rebels indicated Monday that five Westerners abducted in eastern Turkey last month were not about to be freed.

The latest communiqué attributed to the Kurdish Labour Party dampened hopes raised less than 24 hours earlier that freedom would come soon for the five, who were travelling as part of a search for Noah's Ark when they were abducted at a guerrilla roadblock in Bingol province on Aug. 30.

A search by nearly 4,000 helicopter-backed gendarme troops and police commandos had been concentrated in two provinces where the captives are thought to be held.

The five are: Americans Ronald Wyatt, Marvin Wilson, and Richard M. Rives; Briton Gareth Thomas; and Australian Allen Roberts.

They had been searching for the Ark, which the Bible says landed on Mount Ararat, in present-day eastern Turkey.

Their driver said the kidnappers identified themselves as members of the outlawed party, the PKK, which is fighting for an independent state for Kurds in southeastern Turkey.

"If the five foreigners have indeed been arrested by our guerrilla units, they will be released unharmed if an investigation establishes that they had no hostile purposes," said a message sent by facsimile to some newspapers from the "PKK European department" in Bonn Monday.

On Sunday, the Istanbul daily Hurriyet said a similar telex message from the PKK announced that the captives would be freed early Monday in southeastern Mus province.

But Mus Governor Sinasi Kus told the Associated Press that by 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) Monday there were no reports of any sightings in his province.

Iran: U.S., Israel do not want to solve hostage crisis

BEIRUT (R) — An Iranian envoy accused the United States and Israel Monday of not wanting to end the Western hostage crisis but said Tehran hoped it would soon be resolved.

"It seems like the United States of America and the Zionist entity do not want to solve this crisis, but we hope the solution will be soon," Mohammad Kazem Khonsari told reporters in Beirut.

Mr. Khonsari, director-general for Arab and North African Affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, was speaking after talks with President Elias Hrawi and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez.

U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is trying to broker a prisoners-for-hostages swap, is due in Tehran Tuesday.

"Israel was behind the setback to (negotiations over) the hostage crisis," said Mr. Khonsari, who arrived in Beirut Sunday from Syria, Iran's closest Arab ally and a key power broker in Lebanon.

Israeli demands firm word on the fate of seven of its servicemen missing in Lebanon before the next stage of any U.N.-brokered exchange of Arab prisoners for Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Hussein Musawi, an official of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) which is close to the kidnappers, said last week talks on an exchange of the hostages and other captives were at a standstill because no group would cooperate with Israel.

The pro-Iranian kidnappers of the Westerners insist that the next move should come from Israel after their release of British hostage John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy last month.

The groups demand Israel free some 400 Arab detainees in exchange for the seven.

change for the Western hostages — five Americans, two Britons and two Germans. Security sources say a kidnapped Italian was killed.

Mr. Khonsari denied a claim by Israel's chief hostage negotiator Uri Lubrani that missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, whose plane was shot down in South Lebanon, was being held by Iranians.

"We are always used to the lying of the Zionist enemy and its slandering of others."

"We hope for the release of all captives, including the Iranian captives and Lebanese and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and other hostages everywhere," Mr. Khonsari added.

Tehran demands the release of four Iranians kidnapped by a militia north of Beirut in 1982. The militia's leaders have said the four were killed shortly after being seized.

Iranian First Vice President Hassan Ebriham Habibi said Monday Iran was working for the release of Western hostages for humanitarian and moral reasons.

Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Habibi as saying some countries took hostages for blackmail but "Iran is basically against such a measure and will not approve it under any circumstances."

Before arriving in Beirut, Mr. Khonsari met in Damascus with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Khonsari was quoted later Monday as saying that he did not believe efforts to free western hostages in Lebanon were headed towards a deadlock.

Mr. Khonsari made the statement after meeting with President Elias Hrawi, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported.

Algerian Islamic party leaders on hunger strike

ALGIERS (R) — Eight jailed leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) began a hunger strike Sunday demanding to be treated as political prisoners, their lawyer said Monday.

Bacine Mechni told Reuters: "The FIS leaders began a hunger strike to demand political prisoners status and maintain contact with their party which is still legal."

FIS President Abassi Madani, his deputy Ali Belhadj and six other leaders are held in a military prison at Blida 50 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

They were charged with conspiracy against the state during a Muslim fundamentalist strike in June that degenerated into street violence in which 55 people were reported killed.

As a result, the country's first multi-party elections slated for June 27 were postponed to the end of this year.

FIS leaders are demanding to be able to control their party from prison, Mr. Mechni said.

He did not say how long the fast would last.

11 newspapers planned

Algeria's main political party said Sunday it had set up a press group to run 11 newspapers before the country's first multi-party elections.

The socialist National Liberation Front (FLN) ruled Algeria from independence in 1962 until the June strikes called by Muslim fundamentalists. An independent caretaker government led by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali was appointed to prepare for elections, postponed under a state of emergency which is still in effect.

The elections are due to be held before the end of the year.

"It is the FLN's right... to develop its press and seek its rightful place in the present communication field. For its sake, like that of all parties, is to win future political battles," said the party's main daily paper Al Moudjahid.

The FLN will have to compete with more than 50 other parties formed since President Chadli Bendjedid introduced political reforms in 1989.

Said Saadi, secretary-general of the Assembly for Culture and Democracy (RCD), a Berber party, called on other parties and the government to oppose the FLN move.

Airline shaken up

Algerian Transport Minister Mourad Belghedj announced Sunday the appointment of a 15-man committee to take over management of the troubled national airline Air Algerie.

The airline, which has flown 500,000 fewer passengers this year compared to its usual 4.2 million, has lost 800 million dinars (\$44.4 million) this year on domestic traffic alone, despite a 50 per cent increase in fares last April.

The losses are blamed on devaluation of the dinar, the Gulf crisis and higher kerosene prices.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran condemns planned U.S.-Kuwait pact

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday condemned a planned 10-year defence pact between Kuwait and the United States, saying only regional countries could guarantee Gulf security. Washington confirmed last week it was expected to sign an agreement with Kuwait this month. It would involve the use of certain Kuwait ports by U.S. forces, joint training of forces and the placement of U.S. military hardware in the emirate. "Iran condemns the presence of alien forces in the region," Tehran Radio quoted Vice-President Hassan Ebriham Habibi as saying when asked by reporters about the pact. "We believe that only cooperation among the region's countries can bring lasting regional security," Mr. Habibi added. Iran denounced the U.S.-led military buildup which led to Iraq's pullout from Kuwait in February. Tehran also condemned Iraq's invasion of the emirate and remained neutral in the Gulf war. Tehran's relations with the Gulf Arab states have greatly improved since the Gulf crisis, but its quest for a strictly regional Gulf security pact has made little headway. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Thursday Washington had started talks on bilateral defence pacts with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Soviets promise continued aid to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — The first high-level Soviet delegation to visit Afghanistan since last month's failed coup in Moscow pledged Sunday to continue giving aid to the Afghan government, Kabul Radio reported. The delegation of unnamed Soviet parliamentarians told Afghan ministers and officials worried about continuing aid that the new Soviet Union would stick to its guarantees. Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted the Soviet delegation as pledging unbreakable friendship and saying Moscow would continue to provide vital assistance. The Afghan government has received massive shipments of food, fuel and weapons from Moscow, whose troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 after a nine-year occupation. Mujahedeen guerrilla commanders ended a three-day meeting Sunday called to decide military strategy. Guerrilla sources in Pakistan said the commanders, meeting just across the Afghan border near Khost, agreed to launch an assault on President Najibullah's home city of Gardez and predicted an attack was imminent.

50 wounded in ceremony in Bekaa

CHTAUBA, Lebanon (AP) — An unidentified assailant tossed a hand grenade on a crowd of 1,500 guests attending an engagement ceremony in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, wounding 50 people, police said Monday. They said the attack occurred shortly before midnight (2100 GMT) Sunday in the Bekaa village of Majdel Anjar, 14 kilometres south of the market town of Chtaura. Police said 30 of the wounded were in critical condition. Among the wounded was the fiance, Khaled Jumaa, police said. His bride-to-be escaped unscathed. She fainted when she saw her fiance's leg bleeding. Police could not determine the motive behind the attack, but speculated it probably might have been staged by a jealous rival. It was the fifth such attack in the Bekaa in 18 months, police records show.

3 wounded in blast near Kuwait City

KUWAIT (R) — Three children were wounded when a land mine exploded south to Kuwait City, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported Sunday. An Interior Ministry statement, carried by KUNA, did not say who had planted the mine or when the blast occurred. Several people have been killed or wounded by explosions of mines or by unexploded shells dropped by U.S.-led allies during the Gulf war.

Pakistan's president to visit Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan will pay a three-day visit to Tehran beginning Thursday at the invitation of Iranian President Hosseini Rafsanjani, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday. A delegation of six members of Pakistan's parliament and senior officials including Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Railway Minister Hazar Khan Bijarani and Nisar Ali Khan, the minister of petroleum and natural resources, will accompany the president, IRNA said. The president also will address Iran's parliament and pay pilgrimage to the holy shrines of Imam Reza in Mashhad, the news agency said.

Syrian troops seize Lebanon hashish

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops leading a drive to stamp out Lebanon's lucrative drug trade, seized on tonne of hashish, Beirut newspapers said Monday. The drug, hidden beneath a shipment of onions, was uncovered Sunday when the truck collided with another vehicle near the Lebanese-Syrian border. The truck diver managed to flee, the newspapers added. They said Syrian troops also confiscated two truckloads of hemp plants which yield hashish. Syrian troops and Lebanese police set ablaze or plowed under fields of cannabis plants in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for a third consecutive day Sunday. Drug growers said they doubted Syrian and Lebanese authorities would ever be able to stamp out the lucrative drugs trade which has brought prosperity to much of the Bekaa Valley. Lebanese police Brigadier Issam Abu Zaki toured the area Sunday and said the crackdown stemmed from a pact signed a week ago between Syria and Lebanon to fight drug trafficking. Brig. Abu Zaki said troops and police had destroyed a total of 28 hectares of cannabis, from which hashish is produced, on Saturday and Sunday. Police have estimated that cannabis is grown on about 14,000 hectares of the Bekaa. About 1,400 hectares are used to cultivate poppies. A U.S. official said last month that Syria, despite its support for Middle East peace efforts and the release of Western hostages, would not get U.S. aid or international loans until it cracked down on drugs.

Kuwaiti ruler to visit U.S. in September

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will visit Washington later this month, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States was quoted as saying on Monday. The official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said the ambassador, Sheikh Saad Nasser Al Sabah, mentioned the visit in an interview with Kuwait Radio shortly before his departure for Washington. The ambassador said he was in Kuwait on a brief visit related in part to a defence cooperation agreement to be signed with the United States.

Garang denies kidnapping children

TORIT, Sudan (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang, reportedly to have been overthrown by dissident commanders who accused him of waging "a reign of terror," said Sunday he still firmly in charge of the guerrilla movement.

He also denied reports of human rights abuses within his Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the kidnapping of 10,000 children for training as fighters.

"I am still in charge, the high command is still in charge," Colonel Garang, surrounded by gun-toting teenaged rebel officers, told reporters on a visit to rebel-held southern Sudan.

Flanked by nine members of his military high command, the U.S.-educated Dinka tribesmen added:

"If I had been ruthless I would have simply shot dissenting officers on sight. But nobody has ever been executed in the SPLA for political dissent."

SPLA commanders Rick Mashar, Teny-Dhurgon, Lam Akol and Gordon Koang said in a statement received by Reuters in Nairobi nine days ago that Col. Garang had been toppled.

They said Col. Garang's tolerance of alleged atrocities against civilians by Dinkas within the SPLA — a complex 40,000-strong alliance of black Sudanese tribes — was fomenting dissent against the ex-Sudanese army colonel.

"Nobody in southern Sudan supports this artificial coup. Accusations levelled against me



Col. John Garang

said adding, "our problem is how to get guns."

France's state secretary for humanitarian aid, Bernard Kouchner, said after visiting the area last Tuesday that he had seen a camp of 10,000 children apparently recruited to fight in Sudan's eight-year-old civil war.

"The boys are brainwashed and heartless because they are without love," Mr. Kouchner told French Radio.

Col. Garang's officers took reporters around a village on Sudan's border with Ethiopia inhabited by 10,200 boys, aged between eight and 14. There was no evidence of military activity.

SPLA commanders said the boys had been placed in the camp by their families for their own protection.

"We do not have manpower problems so the question of recruiting them does not arise," he said.

He also denied charges made by Dinkas within the SPLA — a complex 40,000-strong alliance of black Sudanese tribes — was fomenting dissent against the ex-Sudanese army colonel.

"Nobody in southern Sudan supports this artificial coup. Accusations levelled against me

Hospital workers to stage indefinite sit-in for better wages and working conditions

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 300 doctors, nurses and administrators employed by the mental health hospital in Fuheis will embark on an open ended sit-in Tuesday to demand better pay and working conditions.

"As a last ditch attempt to settle the dispute without recourse to the sit-in, we met with the director of the Health Ministry's hospitals administration department Tuesday and discussed the demands of the staff but were told that our work was no different from the other doctors employed by the Health Ministry, which means no special increments and allowances could be given to us," said Dr. Akram Hababbeh of the hospital's specialists staff.

Dr. Hababbeh told the Jordan Times that the staff of doctors, nurses and administrators were demanding an extra 25 per cent salary increase, citing the difficult missions they carry in various governorates in addition to the hospital work itself as reasons.

Experts call for utilisation of modern techniques to boost meat production in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two prominent participants in the five-day meeting on techniques to increase the production of red meat for the Arab World have called on the Arab countries to give priority in their national plans to ensuring food security and to give due attention to animal health problems.

Interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Walid Al Murani from the faculty of medicine in Baghdad University said that there was urgent need for the Arab World to achieve food security, which guarantees political security.

What aggravated the food scarcity problem is that there are fewer countries exporting food and those still selling food are monopolising the market, he said.

Dr. Murani said that the Arab World needs to mobilise to rid

itself of socio-economic backwardness and to improve its agricultural sector to end the food shortage problem.

According to Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Tayeb from Khartoum University, production of red meat in the Arab World requires proper attention to the health of animals. In a working paper submitted to the conference, which was organised by the University of Jordan and Baghdad University, Dr. Al Tayeb said that controlling the spread of animal diseases, providing proper care and incentives for the stockbreeding industry and adopting regular inspection and examination of animals can help boost meat production.

Furthermore, strict control should be imposed on dairy products to improve their quality, he said.

Dr. Nofal Rashid, of Baghdad



Economic Cooperation — A Jordanian-Libyan committee met Monday to prepare for an expanded meeting by the joint Libyan-Jordanian Economic Committee, which will convene here before the end of this month.

The head of the Libyan team, Bashir Salameh, said that apart from the talks, the members of the Libyan group will tour Jordanian industrial projects and will study ideas to be included in agreements between Jordan and Libya.

Mr. Bashir said that the projected agreements, cover cooperation in scientific, touristic, land and maritime transport, labour, agricultural and vocational training.

The head of the Jordanian team, Dr. Ibrahim, said that the two countries were determined to promote economic and trade cooperation in an effort to attain integration.

According to official statistics, in the first half of 1991 Jordan exported to Libya JD 5.175 million worth of national products and imported JD 7.5 million worth of Libyan goods.

The Libyan team visited the Amman Chamber of Industry and held talks on trade and economic cooperation as well as organising trade exhibitions to boost the exchange of trade between the two countries.

Arabs prepare for parley on environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting opening in Cairo Tuesday as part of the Arab World's preparation for an international conference on the earth's environment to be held in Brazil in June, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

In a statement just before he left for Cairo, the minister said that the three-day meeting would discuss and endorse a strategy for development and the environment from an Arab perspective, a sustainable Arab environmental plan and coordination among Arab states with regard to topics to be taken up at the Brazil conference.

Participants addressing the opening session Saturday noted that by the year 2000 the Arab World would face a severe shortage of red meat production. They said that if modern techniques were utilised in Jordan, meat production could be boosted, enabling the country to produce at least 40 per cent of its needs, up from 25 per cent at present.

A total of 13 working papers would be reviewed by the participants from eight Arab countries and Ireland.

The Cairo meeting, which is to be attended by ministers responsible for the environment in the Arab countries, will review a Jordanian working paper dealing with the Kingdom's experience in measures to protect the environment in the past two decades.

He said that by implementing the strategy, Jordan will be the third country in the world to focus world attention on basic issues pertaining to development and the environment.

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sources in the course of implementing economic projects, the minister said.

The Cairo meeting is organised by the U.N. Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA) whose director, Dr. Taysir Abdul Jaber, has said that the meeting was expected to review topics related to the environment and suggestions and ideas from Arab countries about their national programmes in this regard.

According to Dr. Abdul Jaber, representatives of all Arab countries along with a number of world organisations concerned with the environment will participate in the Cairo meeting.

The minister said that a Jordanian national environment strategy has been completed and will be revealed to the public soon. The strategy, which took three years to complete, involved the work of 172 specialists.

Dr. Abdul Jaber said that ESCWA was willing to offer Jordan assistance to protect its environment and implement its national strategy.

He said that by implementing the strategy, Jordan will be the third country in the world to focus world attention on basic issues pertaining to the protection of the environment.

18 villages to have electricity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will connect 18 villages inhabited by 6,000 people with the national electric grid before the end of the year, according to JEA sources. With these 18 villages, 97 per cent of the Jordanian countryside population will be getting electric services, the sources added. Last year, the JEA started linking villages inhabited by more than 200 people with the national grid. By the end of 1990, electricity was connected to 764 villages inhabited by 1.25 million people.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abu Rabb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of naive painting, from Germany at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Rashed Dalsami and Bahad Al Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Translatability of Goethe's Faust" by Aida Wakilah of Amman Private University at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by the Baghdad Chamber Ensemble at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Correction

A brief on page 3 of Monday's Jordan Times about a United Nations official leaving Jordan contained some incorrect information. Dr. Ali Attiga is not the U.N. general coordinator in Jordan as was reported. Dr. Attiga, in addition to being UNDP resident representative in New York, is also the U.N. resident coordinator. Furthermore, Dr. Attiga will not be the chief of the Arab Desk at UNDP headquarters in New York. Instead, he will serve as the assistant UNDP administrator and director of the regional bureau of Arab States and Europe in New York. The Jordan Times regrets the errors.

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Germany pledges \$2.85 million to help Jordan absorb returnees

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to Jordan's repeated calls on the world community and international organisations to help it deal with the burden of caring for nearly 300,000 expatriates returning from Kuwait, Germany Monday announced its decision to allocate \$2.85 million to the

channelling through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

The donation will help Jordan cover part of the cost of caring for the expatriates, particularly in the fields of education, health and social services, the official said.

His Majesty King Hussein last month met the ambassadors of the European Community, of which Germany is a member, together with those of Canada, Japan and the United States to draw their governments' attention to the plight of the expatriates.

In addition to the extra donation for the expatriates, the embassy official told Petra that Germany was increasing its annual contribution to the agency's budget for 1991 by a sum of \$285,700 to raise the total annual contribution to \$2.28 million.

Project to add 20 million cubic metres of drinking water to Amman's supply

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is proposing an emergency project designed to make available an additional 20 million cubic metres of drinking water to Amman by the summer of 1992, a senior official said Monday.

"We are working on an immediate crash programme to exploit some reserves and channel water from different locations around Amman at a cost of around JD 15 million," said Muatazz Bilbeisi, director-general of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ).

Technology and manpower for the project are locally available but pipes and pumping equipment will have to be imported, Mr. Bilbeisi said, expressing hope that the government will provide the necessary funds.

However, he added, there is no plan to increase tariffs.

Economists noted that water prices in Jordan were high and that the government was subsidising water by financing a large part of the WAJ's operations

— an issue raised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its recommendations for an economic austerity programme for the Kingdom.

The WAJ director-general emphasised that the "immediate crash" project for Amman cannot be the answer to the national shortage — "we are living on the red line now" — and long-term solutions have to be found.

Another interim solution under study is replacement of leaky pipes — blamed for a 25 per cent loss of pumped water — and improvement of the supply network in the capital. This is expected to cost at least JD 25 million and the WAJ is continuing to look for international financing agencies.

The WAJ chief said Jordan has been registering a 10 per cent annual growth in demand for water and noted that the problem of water shortage has become acute since 1987. Recent statistics indicate that Amman was facing a perennial shortage of 90,000 cubic metres of water everyday.

13,455 community college students pass examinations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education Sunday announced the results of the examination taken by the students of community colleges in 1991.

A total of 20,770 students took the examination set by the Ministry in 189 various specialisations, according to Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Al Bashaireh.

Dr. Bashaireh told a press conference that only 13,455 of the registered students passed the examination and will be rewarded diplomas.

According to Dr. Bashaireh, those among the graduates who followed the new course of study



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TENDER NO. (9/91) SALE OF USED TRUCK - TRACTORS

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4. Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of (100) Jordanian dinars (JD), non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Amman, between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0800-1430), starting from (11-9-1991).
5. Closing date for submitting offers is (10-10-1991). (1200 Hrs).
6. Address:

P.O.Box 5134, Amman/Jordan
Phone No.: 677680, 672502, 672509
Tlx.No.: 22237
Fax No.: 602870

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Success begins with basic education

THE INTERNATIONAL Literacy Day that the international community has just celebrated under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is a grim reminder that more than one-fourth of the world's population is still illiterate. While the problem still persists in developed countries, the developing world remains by far the prime fertile ground for illiteracy. No wonder the gap between the industrialised world and underdeveloped countries is widening instead of being bridged.

Closer to home, the Arab World's illiteracy situation is one of the worst in the world. With 70 per cent of the Arabs still under the literacy level, there is little surprise in the fact that Arab yearnings for fulfilment of their aspirations for recognition and high esteem is nowhere within reach. In spite of their wealth and abundance of natural resources, the Arab governments have obviously not done enough to combat illiteracy among their countrymen. Future generations will hold the various Arab regimes accountable for their dismal record on formal and basic education. The Ottoman empire was once the scapegoat for keeping the Arabs ignorant and backward for centuries. What possible excuse can the free and independent Arab countries offer to explain the 70 per cent illiteracy rate except ignorance and negligence?

Jordan, fortunately enough, fares much better than most of the region's countries. With illiteracy dropping from 68 per cent in 1968 to 23 per cent in 1989 and finally to less than 20 per cent in 1990, the country has no way to go except to even better literacy rates. This has been indeed a big leap to literacy that few countries have been able to match anywhere in the world. Compulsory elementary schooling and adult education can be credited for this successful Jordanian campaign to eradicate illiteracy and ignorance. Above all the Jordanian people themselves take most of the credit for this massive educational transformation in a short period of time. For without their hunger and demand for basic education and beyond, the Jordanian educational story would not be what it is today.

The educational process in the Kingdom did, however, experience many stresses and strains along the way which impeded its progress on the basis of balance and moderate orientation. What could be worse than no education is improper education. As the Kingdom has reached a satisfactory rate of literacy, the country's future educational campaign should focus on quality education that is free of complexes and phobias which counter logic and go against the grain of sound educational systems. There is no way for Jordan or any other part of the Arab World to catch up with the modern world intellectually and technologically without the introduction of a modern educational system that promotes creativity, individual initiative and entrepreneurial spirit. This is the challenge of the 21st century which is almost upon us. Jordan should be prepared to enter the new era with confidence and determination. But it needs every serious effort on our part to start where it matters: in enabling every individual at home to shoulder his or her responsibility towards the common good of all. It really begins with basic education.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE EGYPTIAN regime's campaign against Jordan for publishing its White Paper, which threw light on the facts related to the Gulf crisis, came up on the orders of the Egyptian president who has now unleashed his writers and journalists to attack Jordan, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. But the attack and the slander can by no means change the facts on the ground, and if anything this attack has exposed the realities about the Egyptian regime and President Mubarak who proved to be an agent for the enemy in the Middle East region, the paper said. The White Paper refutes Mr. Mubarak's earlier claims that the Iraqi and Jordanian governments were in collusion against Kuwait or other Arab countries and exposes the real conspiratorial role of certain regimes in the area, something which angered the president prompting him to unleash the ongoing campaign against Jordan, the paper added. Indeed, the Egyptian regime feels isolated now after being exposed as an agent in the pay of the United States, receiving a handful of dollars and conspiring against Arab countries, the paper said. It said that Mr. Mubarak was disillusioned now after having hoped in vain to reap many benefits from his role in the Gulf crisis. It was Kuwait which dealt the first severe blow to the Egyptians, while the Gulf states, along with the other Arabs, have now realised the price Mr. Mubarak had sold himself for only to become a pariah in the Arab community, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i called the readers' attention to the needs of the national economy. He said that there was need to curtail imports of foreign-made goods, particularly consumer goods. Hamdallah Al Nabusi said that the press is full of advertisements promoting the sale of foreign-made products similar to ones made by Jordanians. The writer said that the Jordanian people should reduce spending as they struggle to deal with very serious issues like unemployment, shortages of water supply, foreign debts and difficulties in exporting national products. The writer said that responsibility in this regard lies primarily with the heads of families who, he said, should avoid buying unessential or luxury goods, particularly if these are made in foreign countries, and should get the members of his family to become used to buying Jordanian products instead of bolstering the national economy and helping factories to employ Jordanian labourers. The writer blamed the merchants who continually tempt the consumers to purchase such products like cheese, chocolates and others which are produced in Jordan and are of good quality. He said that consumers as well as merchants have a national responsibility; and each should shoulder part of the share in stimulating the national economy under the present difficult circumstances.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

A miracle, or just another drunken cowboy?

WASHINGTON'S request for a 120-day delay in congressional consideration of the Israeli request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees is a very important development — perhaps even a pivotal historic moment. Or it may only prove to be yet another example of Washington expanding its chest, only to have the wind knocked out of it by Israel and its supporters and agents in the United States. I suspect the first option is more accurate, and that this is a very significant moment. We shall soon find out.

The timing — in the wake of the Gulf war, and on the eve of the proposed peace conference — suggests that as we move closer to addressing the core issues of justice and peace in Palestine, the United States may have been shamed or scared into adopting a more decisive and activist posture with all parties, but especially Israel. This may mark a pause, or the start of a reversal, in the traditional American policy of essentially adopting Israel's position through the commitment to keep Israel militarily (and therefore politically) stronger than the combined Arab forces around it — a policy in force since Kissinger's early days nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Most important of all, though, is the political context of the delay request. The United States, Israel and the Palestinians are involved in a very complex and exciting three-way cat-and-mouse game revolving around Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference. Washington says it feels the Palestinians should choose their own delegation, but also tells the Palestinians that if they choose people unacceptable to Israel the conference may not take place. In other words, Washington accepts Israel's conditions in a passive, de facto manner.

At the same time, the Palestinians have asked Washington for a series of clarifications on essential elements, definitions and understandings related to the proposed peace conference, on sovereignty, transitional periods, control of natural resources, self-determination, protection, national and political rights, the applicability of Resolution 242, and other such key issues. The Palestinians still await the American response, on the basis of which they will formulate their final position and delegation to the peace conference. Presumably, this will take place in the next month or two.

The timing of the American delay in the loan guarantees, therefore, could be a powerful signal to both Israel and the Palestinians. It could be sending the following message: "we, the United States government, cannot publicly affirm that all the occupied territories must be open to negotiations on the basis of the principle of land-for-peace, because if we do so we would get beaten up badly by the friends of Israel lobby in Washington. We would also have to swallow our pride and admit that the Arab position on this issue is in keeping with international law and U.N. resolutions, and we find that hard to do because white guys from the north cannot appear to accept political positions espoused by dark guys from the south. For the same reasons, we have also been unable to get the Israelis to stop building

settlements, even though we clearly declare the settlements to be an obstacle to peace. So by delaying the loan guarantees, we say to Israel and the Palestinians that we will not provide the necessary extra funds to settle more Israelis in the occupied territories, including Soviet, Ethiopian and other immigrants, and we also say that the fate of the occupied territories cannot be resolved unilaterally by Israel, but instead must be determined through negotiations."

The Arab parties lining up to do the peace dance, including the Palestinians, insist on one cardinal principle: definition of all the lands occupied in 1967 as subject to the land-for-peace provisions of 242. The United States previously gave such commitments to the Arabs in writing, and now we seek again to have those commitments and understandings reaffirmed. The Arab view is that if this principle is clearly stated, we could go into the peace talks with great confidence, for the international consensus on returning the occupied lands to the Palestinians would ultimately transform into unbearable moral and political pressure on Israel. The loan guarantees delay may be an American signal to that effect.

There is also the personality element. Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have both been personally insulted and humiliated by Israel's expansion of settlements in the face of American requests for a pause in the colonisation of Palestine by Israelis using American money. The Bush-Baker team is open to three particularly devastating charges: 1. that they are national wimp unable to lay down the law on how American aid money should be used; 2. that they are electoral wimp, responding more to domestic electoral threats than to the overall national interest of the United States; and, 3. that they are international law and legitimacy wimp, because they will not make a real effort to implement scores of U.N. resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as they did in the Gulf.

Bush-Baker have been made to look like fools by the Israelis, and, as we just saw in Iraq, there is nothing more dangerous than a scorned Texan would-be fool. Of course, they cannot militarily destroy Israel as they destroyed Iraq, but perhaps they can find the gumption to check Israel politically. It is clearly in the American national interest today to reign in Israel, to seek to promote peace and stability in the Middle East, and therefore to redefine long term ties between Arab/Muslims/Middle Easterners and Americans. The Americans obviously got the message: If this is not done, and if the rights and aspirations of the people of this region are not satisfied, the area will know only further violence and warfare. Tensions that accumulate have to be released, and they are usually released through regional wars and domestic rebellions. Washington will not send half a million troops to the Middle East twice a decade to deal with these problems, and the fellows with the money in the Gulf, Japan and Germany will not frequently finance such a posse of politically crazed, morally dazed and historically drunken cowboys.

In a few years, the burning of Kuwait will look like a mere

summer barbecue next to the political burning of other parts of the Middle East that will inevitably occur if present injustices and disparities persist unchecked. Who goes next? Saudi Arabia? Egypt? Turkey? Algeria? UAE? The best way to prevent that, and to reverse the trend of Arab national regression and explosion, is to solve the Arab-Israeli problem according to international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, as a first step to addressing other regional issues. The logical way to do that would be to secure an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, in return for Arab coexistence with Israel. The only way to do that today, given Arab weakness, is to secure enough international pressure on Israel, and make Israel recognise that it cannot occupy Arab lands and expect peace with the Arabs.

The result of past policies sees the United States today establishing new military alliances and semi-bases around the region, such as Turkey, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Oman; to mention only the most obvious. I thought the idea of keeping Israel strong was to assure its security and therefore the stability of the area. What went wrong? Well, what went wrong, very simply, is that the Americans forgot that Arabs lived around here, too, and that many Arabs wanted something out of life more meaningful than American financial aid, a 700 series BMW, or air conditioned shopping centres manned by foreign workers and selling imported goods. The Middle East region is composed of people other than Israelis, oil Arabs, and Arab autocrats and paternalistic despots. If that was not clear before, it should be clear now. The Americans are learning that history does not always correspond to television land, or to electoral districts in New Jersey.

Israel's strategic value to the U.S. was always exaggerated, but it now appears to have disappeared almost completely. Israel may be transforming itself into a liability to Washington. We have always said that, but Washington also may be starting to appreciate it these days, as the fires of Kuwait send dark clouds around the world. The dark clouds are not mere physical phenomena, but political phenomena as well — they are modern smoke signals, sent by the Arab Indians to the American cowboys, carrying the message: "white man, tread carefully, for all is not well in the Middle East."

The loan guarantees delay may be a return signal, by tired cowboys who know they cannot continue to ride their horses roughshod throughout the world, shooting up everything in their path because they find it easier to use their guns than to use their minds. If it is a return signal, we should acknowledge it, and seek to nurture the cowboys away from their crazed world of whiskey and six-shooters.

The Middle East is a land of miracles, and history moves right along. If we are witnessing a miraculous transformation of wimps into wisemen, let us applaud and prod the process. If, on the other hand, this is merely a sober moment in between sprees of crazed and drunken political depravity, then let us all re-load, and prepare for the next round of battle. I prefer miracles, and still believe in them.

Mideast oil: from alibi to illusion

By Maria Kielmas

ONE of the most lasting forecasts of the world oil trade has been the notion that the industrialised nations will become increasingly dependent on OPEC and, within OPEC, Middle East oil. Though recent developments indicate that such a dependence is unlikely to be as overwhelming as once thought, the Middle East will still remain the world's principal oil supplier. So will this be a foundation for a radical new era of international energy cooperation? The answer is most definitely not.

Thirty one years since the creation of OPEC, and after four Middle East wars, the region has less control than ever before over its predominant natural resource. The reason for this extraordinary state of affairs is neither the machinations of the oil majors within an international capitalist conspiracy, nor the miraculous adoption by one-time nationalists of free market virtues. It stems from the parallel development of oil as a world commodity and its manipulation by politicians; a tactic which has emerged as firstly counter-productive and now finally financially embarrassing.

Thriving on high prices

Today's oil prices, in real terms, i.e. when inflation is taken into account, are at the same level as they were in the 1960s. At that time countries in the Middle East and around the Gulf of Mexico provided most of the non-Communist world's oil. The expanding world economy brought the first phase of development to Third World countries, including oil exploration. But the world was already moving into recession before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, a situation which deteriorated rapidly as a result of oil price rises.

Unsurprisingly the world oil industry thrived on high prices, and a pattern emerged. In the 1960s potential new oil producing areas were identified. In the 1970s they were explored and in the 1980s they started to produce oil, which contributed to the mid-1980s glut. Technology improved alongside, so areas previously thought dry were successfully explored again while more and more oil was squeezed out of existing reservoirs. The private sector industry became progressively more immune to price fluctuations, hedging usually through corporate tax concessions, and used the mid-1980s price drop as an excuse to restructure on more cost-effective lines. Today these companies are swimming in spare cash while the oil price languishes.

Not so OPEC, and its state oil

Rupture or close to the brink.

Covering up for OPEC

But whereas in some countries, such as in Latin America, some version of a national private sector oil industry exists, though essentially still an appendage to the state, there is none in the Middle East. Only a handful of technical books on Middle East oil as a whole have been written. There is not even an approximately truthful history of the world's premier oil region. Yet for nearly 30 years an influential alliance of Western academics, specialists, oil journalists, OPEC consultants and superannuated politicians have written innumerable eulogies about the Middle East oil industry, without properly examining the facts. Nor has any OPEC oil minister been subjected to a really rigorous public questioning by these Western experts.

Indeed anyone, whether Arab or Iranian or Westerner, with first-hand experience of the industry and who has tried to counter this has been deemed persona non grata. Who in the democratic West, where there is easy access to detailed information about both private and public sector energy industries, has stood up and suggested that surely the population of the Middle East deserves at least the same privilege?

So the reason that many OPEC countries and various notables today are pressing for a dialogue between oil producing and oil consuming countries is because OPEC is bankrupt and needs new investment which it should be able to provide for itself but cannot. Over the last 20 years OPEC heads of state have had more power over their countries and their natural resources than any others in economic history. Instead of beating the West at its own game, which was possible, the goods have been squandered.

The oil industry has always made money by peddling illusions. At the beginning of the century oil companies fooled governments this way. Now at the end of the same century desperate governments use the same tactics to elude their own populations. — Middle East International, London.

Fall of Soviet communism deals treble blow to Mitterrand

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

PARIS — The collapse of communist rule in the Soviet Union has dealt a treble blow to French President Francois Mitterrand.

It has wrongfooted his foreign policy, devastated the French Communist Party, whose support he needs to govern, and called into question the ideology of his own Socialist Party.

Such is the competition today for investment funds that Western bankers and oil companies can virtually write their own terms. And if any country, be it Iran or the Gulf or North Africa, does not comply, then the funds go elsewhere. Ten years ago Western industrialists talked about "partnerships" in OPEC countries. Today they are no longer so polite. The philosophy is "we pay, we control."

Of course if the Middle East

really wanted to ensure major

future capital investment in its oil

sector, it could do so by providing

standard investment terms as

available in countries such as

Colombia. If this were to happen

every dollar of foreign oil invest-

ment would go to the region but,

under its present political sys-

tem, the West, not the region's gov-

ernments, would control every

cent. Ideally in a situation where

a population has a real stake in

the wealth and future welfare of

its country, it does not matter who

invests — nationals or foreign-

ers. Similarly without demo-

cratic and accountable govern-

ments, oil nationalisation and pri-

vatization are equally mean-

less concepts.

As democracy and accountable

government are distant if not

impossible goals for most of

the Middle East, the region will con-

tinue to sink into an economic

morass. Various politicians,

OPEC notables and international

bureaucrats will try to counter

this by fostering the illusion

that the problems will be solved if all

the players in the world's oil

industry cooperate. But as</p

The South Centre: Network for South-South cooperation

The South Commission at its final meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania, in October 1990 decided to establish the South Centre. It gave the centre the mandate of promoting the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Commission's Report, "The Challenge to the South." The centre has been established for a two-year period under the chairmanship of Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere.

The South Commission
The South Commission itself was established in 1987. At the Non-Aligned Summit Meeting held in Harare in September 1986, Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, announced the intention to establish the Commission and also made known that Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, had accepted the invitation to be its chairman. The establishment of an independent commission had been proposed earlier at an international meeting held in Malaysia, with the prime minister of Malaysia heading a steering committee to make the preliminary arrangements for bringing it into existence.

In the months following the announcement at Harare, Mwalimu Nyerere travelled widely in the South to discuss the tasks of the commission with people in public life, in the business and academic communities, and in non-governmental organisations. In July 1987 he announced the composition of the commission; it consisted of distinguished individuals from the South who had different backgrounds and political persuasions.

The commission adopted its terms of reference at its second meeting in Kuala Lumpur in March 1988. In brief, these consisted of: undertaking an analysis of national development experiences in the South and elaboration

papers took place. In the course of its three years of operation, the commission issued separate statements on two pressing issues: external debt and the Uruguay round of trade negotiations. And in August 1990 it released its report, "The Challenge to the South," in which it set out its findings and recommendations.

In its report, the commission has assessed the South's achievements and failings in the development field and suggested directions for reform. Although the commission carried out its work in the final years of a decade that devastated many economies in the South, the report strikes a note of hope and makes a cogent case for self-reliant, people-centred development strategies.

The commission functioned as an independent body, with its members serving in their personal capacities. Its term was set for three years and its work was financed by contributions from the developing countries. The commission's secretariat was established in Geneva with assistance from the government of Switzerland.

To enable it to fulfil its mandate, the commission held extensive consultations with governments, international organisations and individuals. It established working groups to look into specific areas and asked experts and renowned individuals from both the South and the North to prepare papers for its use. In different countries it held ten full meetings of commission members, at which extensive discussions and consideration of

would be required to implement and to bring to fruition the many recommendations that it had made in its report. In particular, there is a need to work energetically to promote people-centred development, enhanced South-South cooperation, and the restructuring of the global economic system to allow for the sustained development of the South.

Although the life of the commission, and hence its mandate, ended on Oct. 31, 1990, the members resolved to entrust their chairman, Julius K. Nyerere, with the important task of guiding and energising the initial phases of this follow-up work.

The commission felt that this follow-up work should, in the main, consist of activities to:

- disseminate the report and its principal messages;
- mobilise support for the report's recommendations throughout the South as well as in the North and
- initiate specific activities to implement and/or further elaborate different recommendations or groups of recommendations from the report.

To assist the chairman and members in this task, the commission resolved to set up organisational facilities for a period of up to two years. These facilities — to be known as the South Centre — were to consist of small offices in Dar-es-Salaam and Geneva.

The commissioners pledged to give their full support and assistance to the South Centre, which was to have a small team of professional and support staff. In addition it was envisaged that an Advisory Committee, composed

of noted individuals from the South and including some commissioners, would be formed to give assistance to the chairman, and guidance to the work of the centre.

The South Centre started its operation on Nov. 1, 1990. In Geneva, the centre occupies part of the former premises of the South Commission. As with the commission, the Swiss government has agreed to defray the rental and other costs of the premises; it has also given the South Centre the legal status of an international organisation with the attendant privileges and immunities.

Activities of the centre

Assisted by the Advisory Committee comprising the following members: Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere; chairman, Robert Mugabe, Carlos Andres Perez, George Vassiliou, Mahathir Bin Mohammed, Carlos Rodriguez, Manmohan Singh, Abdullafti Al Hamad, Solita Collas-Monsod, Abubaker Diaby-Ottara, Aldo Ferrer, Pius Okigbo, Qian Jiadong, Shridath Ramphal and former commissioners, Mwalimu Nyerere, through the South Centre, is maintaining and expanding his contacts with government, political and parliamentary leaders, and opinion-makers in the South, and also in the North. In addition, the chairman is developing contacts and cooperation with important actors outside governments and with non-governmental organisations in order to inform them about the report and its key messages and recommendations, and to enlist their cooperation in the follow-up

process. The former commissioners, on their part, have pledged to support the chairman in this work. In addition, they view themselves as representing the nucleus of a growing, self-reliant activist network for South-South cooperation and to strengthen mechanisms for such cooperation.

Build and expand contacts with non-governmental organisations, religious groups, and other organisations, to establish a network of institutions in the South and to encourage these organisations to carry forward the recommendations of the report to their respective countries and communities.

Bring to the attention of national, regional, and sub-regional bodies sections of the report which may have relevance to their work, and in general encourage the use of the report as input in their policies, programmes, and activities.

Promote programmes for South-South student exchange and help establish the "South Foundation" to grant fellowships for study in the South by students and scholars from the South. This will involve establishing mechanisms to identify educational institutions that would make up the South's Network of Centres of Excellence where students and scholars can go for training and research.

Cooperate with the Non-

aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of 77, the Group of 15 and other institutions of the South in the effort to strengthen South-South solidarity and enhance South-South cooperation and to strengthen mechanisms for such cooperation.

expert groups or commission papers on such issues as the reform of the U.N. system, the environment and sustainable development, food security, or other topics which may have a vital bearing on the development prospects of the South. The results of such analyses or deliberations will be published and submitted to the governments of developing countries, the NAM, G-77 and G-15, and to other organisations.

Publish a quarterly newsletter, "The South Letter."

Produce a companion volume of commentaries on the report in order to give to renowned individuals, experts and political figures concerned with development, the opportunity to comment publicly on the report and to bring into a single focus to representative sample of reactions to and views on the report.

Towards the end of the expected life of the centre, prepare a follow-up report ("The Challenge to the South — Two Years After") which would review events since the report was issued and, where appropriate, update its findings.

The programmes and activities of the South Centre are expected to be financed through voluntary contributions from governments, foundations and other funding institutions from the South and from the North.

Palestinians will elect their representatives*

(Continued from page 1)

peace and so a comprehensive peace will be there."

Q: Prime Minister Shamir says he will pull Israel out of the peace conference if he is not satisfied with the composition of the Palestinian delegation. What is your reaction to that statement?

A: My reaction is that the least said the better. The most important element now is to take advantage of this moment and there is no other option or alternative to moving towards solving this chronic problem, the root cause of instability in our region. So I think we should move away from old clichés and positions, and we should leave them to the time when we negotiate to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to realise the Palestinian legitimate rights on Palestinian soil, security of Israel, and to finally give everybody a chance to move away from this problem into a better future for all the people in the region and for generations to come.

Q: Your government has asked the United States for assurances of the implementation of 242 and 338 in advance of the conference. In the absence of such assurances, are you still willing to attend?

A: We have asked for clarifications here and there as regards to the United States position, but we have sought no prior assurances.

"I believe we are starting a process that would require all to see what is at stake and what the promise of the future is. As far as

we are concerned we certainly like to know what the United States' position is on certain aspects of the problem. But beyond that, we hope that the process itself will produce the answers and we know what the foundations for a solution are. Q: Your government applauded the U.S. decision to delay loan guarantees to Israel. Do you view that decision as an effective prod

Jordan needs \$4.5b in five years

(Continued from page 1)

He said the figures were based on a survey of 46,000 students enrolled in state schools by the National Centre for Education Research and Development along with field data gathered by the Statistics Department in August.

Recent government surveys indicate that only between 23 and 36 per cent of returned citizens own land or housing in Jordan.

U.N. reports clashes in north Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

villages and towns, appealed on Monday for U.N. and Western help.

He said about 60 people were injured and hundreds were forced to flee on Sunday when Iraqi troops attacked the town of Taqquad, one of seven places which he said came under attack Saturday and Sunday.

Prince Sadruddin's office said: "The executive delegate appeals on behalf of all the United Nations involved for max-

imum restraint to be exercised so that the essential humanitarian objectives can be realised in the interests of Iraq's entire population."

The fighting broke out with negotiations at a critical point between the Baghdad government and the Kurdish groups which led a disastrous rebellion after the Gulf war in February. An autonomy agreement has been proposed that would grant Kurds significant political rights. Kurds are divided over whether to accept it.

"I think it's that policy position that you see reflected in those statements," he said.

"Notwithstanding the fact that we have a difference of opinion with respect to the question of timing of the issue of absorption aid, I believe that the government of Israel remains committed to peace," he added.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned Israel Monday not to delay the proposed conference.

'Jordan will not go it alone'

(Continued from page 1)

including the siege of Aqaba port and the failure of international organisations to respond adequately or proportionately to Jordan's needs in the way of coping with the repercussions of the Gulf crisis, including absorbing nearly 300,000 Jordanians and Palestinians evicted from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

He explained that although the United Nations confirmed that Jordan's losses, not including the cost of absorbing the returnees, amounted to \$5 billion in the Gulf crisis, "the fact is Jordan has received no more than \$400 million in grants."

The Crown Prince said that if Israeli criteria were taken as standard for absorbing Soviet Jewish immigrants (according to which the cost of absorbing one person amounts to over \$50,000) Jordan would then have to ask for \$15 billion to meet the influx of displaced Jordanians and Palestinians.

The Crown Prince struck a link between Jordan's participation in the proposed negotiations and the need to work towards a just and comprehensive peace that achieves stability through a solution of inter-regional problems such as water, the arms race, the debt problem, energy and population matters.

He did not rule out "pleasant surprises" in the context of improving inter-Arab relations before or even during the peace negotiations, and called for "a minimum level of regional coordination among Arab parties to guarantee the success of the peace process."

Responding to a question on how Jordan envisaged the future of the occupied territories and its relationship with Jordan, the Crown Prince said that despite the limitations in resources and geographical space, "an end to the occupation could turn the occupied territories into a source of stability for the region." He expressed confidence that Jordanian and Palestinian "human resources" were capable of achieving economic revival and growth in the occupied territories.

On regional economic cooperation, Prince Hassan said rich oil-producing Arab states were now seeking to join and completely merge in the economies of the first world, away from the economies of other Arab countries. He said that meant "a temporary freeze of inter-regional cooperation based on the idea of integration."

He said this situation pushed less privileged countries such as Jordan to address Western governments directly to seek to build its economy and receive bilateral assistance.

Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

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Difficult year ends with dream win for Edberg

NEW YORK (R) — Stefan Edberg ended a disappointing Grand Slam year with a dream win at the U.S. Open tennis championships Sunday.

At the Grand Slam event that has been a traditional source of frustration for the soft-spoken Swede, Edberg played the best tennis of his career to trounce American Jim Courier 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

"It's really hard to believe. It was almost like a dream out there," said the 25-year-old Edberg, who will regain his world number one when the new rankings are released Monday.

The further the match went on, the more comfortable I felt. I just feel great out there. I felt like I could do almost anything and the strategy which I had going out today worked as well as I could have ever hoped.

"It's fantastic that you can actually play such a good match in a Grand Slam final for three sets without losing the concentration once," he added.

Ironically, Edberg had often been accused of lacking the mental toughness necessary to win the open, considered by players to be the most difficult of the four Grand Slams.

He had suffered a series of disappointments here in the past. In 1989 Edberg fell to Jimmy Connors, who was then considered over the hill. The previous year he was upset by Aaron Kirkstein, also in the fourth round.

Edberg always seemed to be bothered by the noise, the wind, difficult night match conditions or swirling garbage floating around the Louis Armstrong Stadium. There was always some excuse for Edberg's inability to play up to the expectations at the open.

The two-time Wimbledon and Australian Open champion suf-

fared his greatest humiliation here last year when he came in as top seed and hot favorite only to crash out in the first round.

But at the 1991 open, Edberg put it all together.

His graceful serve and volley game, a perfect combination of power and finesse, was firing on all cylinders from his brilliant fourth-round victory over Michael Chang through his demolition of Courier on the final Sunday.

"It's really something to actually win it here after what happened last year and the last couple of years where New York hasn't been the greatest place for my tennis."

"Actually to turn it around here, it's really hard to describe," Edberg said in the post-match interview, his huge silver trophy by his side.

"The last four matches I played here, I think I played as well as I can," said Edberg, whose previous best showings have come on Wimbledon's centre court against Boris Becker, who must surrender his beloved number one to the Swede.

"I really peaked, especially for the last two matches here where I played very solid tennis, first to beat (Ivan) Lendl yesterday (6-3, 6-3, 6-4) and then to beat Courier today."

"Stil winning Wimbledon the first time is always going to be very special to me," said the London resident, who claimed his first Wimbledon crown in 1988. "But this ranks number two or three to me. It's just great to win here."

Edberg had been frustrated by his showings at this year's first three Grand Slams.

"I have been number one most of the year, but I haven't really done it in the Slams," he said. "I lost to Lendl in Australia (in

the semifinals), I had him down two match points. In the French I lost in the quarterfinals," he said of his four-set loss to eventual champion Courier.

"Then Wimbledon when I had everything going for me I lost that incredible match to (Michael) Stich," he said referring to their amazing semifinal in which Edberg lost in four sets without ever dropping his serve.

But no one can take away his sensational U.S. Open victory.

"This has sort of made up for the year," Edberg said.

"Whatever happens the rest of the year, I will be a happy man." Edberg and Monica Seles returned to the top with their first U.S. Open tennis titles but it was Jimmy Connors who won the crowd and stole the show.

No discussion of the 1991 edition of the two-week circus can be complete without three words — James Scott Connors.

The ageing warrior and master showman of tennis — battling men half his age as well as the limitations of his 39-year-old body — reduced other matches to mere warm-up acts.

Seals for the Jimmy Connors show became the hottest property town. One scalper was heard complaining that Connors tickets were harder to come by than seats for the super bowl.

Every one of his matches crackled with the electricity of a final, as Connors fought to lift once more the torch of American tennis that it seemed he and John McEnroe had long since surrendered to a new generation of rising stars.

Meanwhile, Jim Courier was humbled but not demoralized after suffering his worst loss of the year in the U.S. Open final Sunday.

"I have been pummeled before but this is the worst beating I



Stefan Edberg

have taken this year," said the fourth-seeded Courier of the 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 thumping he took from second-seeded Stefan Edberg.

"Life goes on."

Life has been very good this year for the hard-hitting, 21-year-old Floridian.

Courier could not find an answer to Edberg's total mastery in the most lopsided open final since Ivan Lendl's victory over his Czechoslovak compatriot Milos Meier in 1986.

"I did the best that I could today and I was beaten by the better man," said Courier, who won just nine points in the last set. "There is certainly no shame in that."

"I have been in two Grand Slam finals this year and you know, that in itself is pretty incredible."

semifinals of his last three tournaments.

Courier's Grand Slam year started as it ended — with a loss to Edberg in the round of 16 at the Australian Open.

Edberg had been frustrated by his showings at this year's first three Grand Slams.

"I have been number one most of the year, but I haven't really done it in the Slams," he said.

"I lost to Lendl in Australia (in

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Steven scores 1st goal for Marseille

PARIS (R) — England midfielder Trevor Steven scored his first goal for Marseille to help the French champions snatch a 2-0 home win over Toulouse in the French Soccer League. Substitute Daniel Xuetz opened the scoring with a header after 43 minutes and Steven, who joined last month from Glasgow Rangers for a \$6 million transfer (about \$8.3 million) transfer fee, made it 2-0 four minutes into the second half. The win meant Marseille retained their second place and closed their gap on leaders Monaco to two points. Monaco had an easy 3-0 home win over Toulon Saturday. Marseille, who had eight players on the pitch in Bratislava when France beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 in a European Championship match Wednesday, looked relatively uninspired against a brave Toulouse side. Ace striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who scored twice in Czechoslovakia, was hurt in a collision with Toulouse's goalkeeper Robin Hack and had to leave the pitch after 37 minutes. The French champions were without the injured Chris Waddle of England and defender Basile Boli.

Mukaddamah beaten by stable companion

PARIS (R) — Uproar broke out after Priolo, ridden by Gerald Mosse, got up in the last stride to beat the English-trained outsider Mukaddamah by a short head in the Group One Prix Du Moulin de Longchamp Sunday. France's champion Miler Hector Protector, the favourite and a stable companion of the winner, lost his nine-race unbeaten record on home turf, finishing only seventh of the 12. There was pandemonium around the winner's enclosure as noisy boozing and jeering racefans made their feelings crystal-clear, angry that Francois Boutin Stable had won the important race with the lesser fancied horse. At one stage members of the public had to be restrained. Jockey Freddie Head explained Hector Protector's poor run, lamenting: "He got bumped a couple of times after a furlong and then just lost interest."

Soviets take lead in world gymnastics

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — The Soviet Union earned the top four spots in the men's compulsory exercises to give them a commanding lead in the World Gymnastics Championships. Igor Korobchinski, Vitali Scherbo and Valeri Liukin picked up Sunday's highest individual scores to take over the all-around lead from compatriot Grigori Misutin, who led after Saturday's round. The defending world and Olympic champion Soviets lead the competition with 291.825 points, just 3.875 points ahead of Germany, followed by Japan and China which are within a tenth of a point in third and fourth. "We felt our team was the strongest one here," said Korobchinski, the defending world all-around champion. "We are competing among ourselves the way we do in training," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A1063 ♦8752 ♠A762 ♣646
♦KQJ1076 ♦762 ♣J44
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A61074 ♦Q62 ♠A56 ♣J63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A2 ♠KQJ8672 05 ♣A66
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A2 ♠KQJ8672 05 ♣A66
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Schillaci puts Juventus top of league

ROME (R) — Juvento, eager to exorcise the nightmares of last season, went top of the Italian Soccer League thanks to striker Siro (in Milan), the media magazine said, his criticism apparently aimed at new team coach Fabio Capello.

The Turin giants, past champions 22 times but without a place in Europe this season for the first time in 28 years, won 1-0 at Foggia with a goal from the Italian World Cup hero.

It was Juvento's second league win in as many matches and followed a string of pre-season victories for a side revamped by coach Giovanni Trapattoni on his return to his old club.

Juventus are level on points at the top with AC Milan who beat Cagliari 1-0 at home thanks to a penalty converted by Dutch striker Marco Van Basten after just three minutes.

AC Milan President Silvio Berlusconi was highly critical of the team's tactics, although they won.

"Milan simply cannot play with only one striker here at the San

earth with a 2-0 defeat at newly-promoted Duisburg.

The result demoted the club from top to third in the table, one point behind leaders Eintracht Frankfurt.

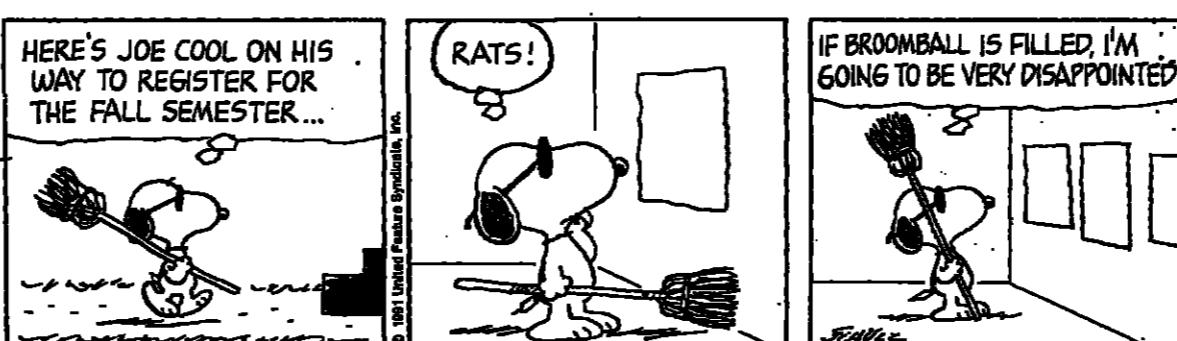
Soviet striker Vladimir Lufy and Patrick Nothoff both scored, and goalkeeper Heribert Machery made two brilliant first-half saves Sunday.

The Duisburg-Rostock game was the only one contested Sunday, with the rest of the league having completed their matches on Friday or Saturday.

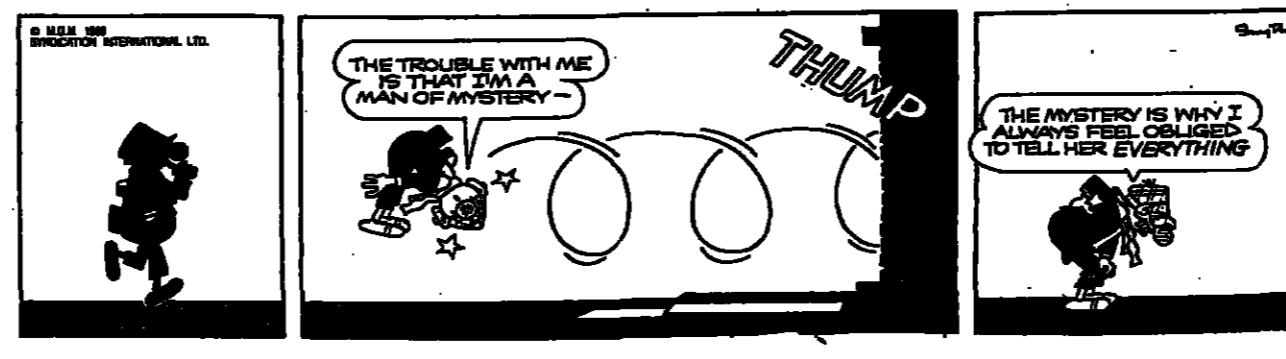
Rostock, which remained in third — one point behind Frankfurt and VFB Stuttgart, dominated the first half but was unable to score despite an apparent unsure Duisburg defence. Machery kept Rostock off the board by stopping Czechoslovak national team striker Roman Sedlacek in the 11th minute and again the 24th.

In the men's 100 metres at Cologne, Burrell, surprisingly beaten into third place in a race in Italy Friday, returned confidently to winning ways.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Krabbe, Ottey wage pre-Olympic psychological battle

BERLIN (R) — Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe and rival Merlene Ottey take their pre-Olympic psychological battle into Tuesday's Berlin Grand Prix athletics meeting.

After beating Ottey in the 100 and 200 metres at the recent Tokyo World Championships, Germany's Krabbe wants to avoid the Jamaican for the rest of the season in a bid to gain a key advantage in the run-up to next year's Barcelona games.

But 31-year-old Ottey, who ran

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This evening is a good time to entertain others and to be in the swim where mental interests are concerned, especially concerning your fondest dreams that have been in your consciousness for sometime.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss at length that fresh start or some trip or expansive trend that appeals to you and make sure that you do handle alliance matters.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You have that urge now to add to your income and revenue which is very good so long as you are willing to work yourself to make it a success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you can be just as personal as you like in seeking out a partner and going with him to some recreational site to arrive at a new meeting of minds.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You have many assignments to do and can make your life much richer and fuller and get rid of obligations that are a pain in the neck by doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you would like to do that is a joy and that bring a feeling of wellbeing and pleasure to you is excellent so be out and be busy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Very basic matters now require your attention to get at them quickly and show you realize it is necessary to put first things first and you make real headway.

information about your career can be gained by studying available sources at your fingertips.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) whatever you would like to do that takes you away from the boudoir is excellent right now so get out of what rut and make some interesting new contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have it in your power to show you are the one who means so much to those we care nothing to arouse opposition.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You have many assignments to do and can make your life much richer and fuller and get rid of obligations that are a pain in the neck by doing.

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Birth Stone for October: Zico Zirconio.

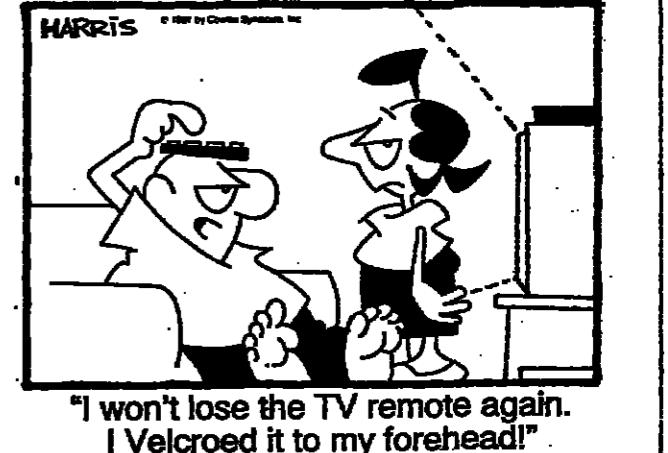
World Resources Dept. & Co. Inc.

Armen - Rio De Janeiro
Armen - Arma Hotel 8th floor

THE BETTER HALF.

HARRIS

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Heidi Arnold and Bob Lee
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUFTE

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TUQES

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ABANCA

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MANCEP

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
Date: 9/9/1991	Date: 9/9/1991	Date: 9/9/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.7185	1.7210			
Deutsche Mark	1.7155	1.7097			
Swiss Franc	1.5065	1.5017			
French Franc	5.8275	5.8120 **			
Japanese Yen	135.62	135.35			
European Currency Unit	1.1980	1.2010 **			
USD Per STG					
European Opening = 8:00 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates: Date: 9/9/1991					
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.56	5.68		
Sterling Pound	10.25	10.06	10.06		
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.25		
Swiss Franc	8.05	8.00	7.87		
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.37		
Japanese Yen	7.05	6.75	6.56		
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.68	9.68		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Metals			Date: 9/9/1991		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	348.35	6.70	Silver	4.00	.090
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/9/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690			
Sterling Pound	1.1857	1.1916			
Deutsche Mark	.4025	.4077			
Swiss Franc	.4584	.4607			
French Franc	.1185	.1191			
Japanese Yen	.5086	.5111			
Dutch Guilder	.3573	.3591			
Swedish Krona	.1109	.1115			
Italian Lira	.0540	.0545			
Belgian Franc	.01954	.01964			
Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 9/9/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.7750	1.7800			
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0772			
Saudi Riyal	.1831	.1840			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	.1863	.1880			
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2200			
Omani Riyal	1.7350	1.7500			
UAE Dirham	.1863	.1880			
Greek Drachma	.3600	.3600			
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4500			
Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	7/9/1991 Close	8/9/1991 Close			
All-Share	107.54	107.40			
Banking Sector	100.68	100.48			
Insurance Sector	117.12	117.88			
Industry Sector	114.49	114.39			
Services Sector	109.24	109.04			
December 31, 1990					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday rates on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7235/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1384/89	Canadian dollar
	1.7075/85	Deutschmarks
1.9180/90	1.4990/97	Dutch guilders
35.10/15	5.8000/50	Swiss francs
1274/1275	134.95/135.05	Belgian francs
6.1980/2030	6.6720/70	French francs
6.5915/65	350.00/350.50	Italian lire
One ounce of gold	350.00/350.50	Japanese yen
		Swedish crowns
		Norwegian crowns
		Danish crowns
		U.S. dollars

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

UNDER THE BOARD WALK

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

NIJOUN

Tel: 675371

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Germany helps car market in Europe to weather recession

FRANKFURT (R) — Germany's powerful economic performance since reunification last year has saved western Europe's car market from a widely predicted sharp downturn.

Industry analysts and research institutes say sales could start setting records again as early as 1993 if German sales remain buoyant.

After forecasting a drop of up to one million vehicles in European sales for 1991, some analysts and institutes are revising their predictions.

"We've seen phenomenal growth in Germany," said Keith Hayes, European motor industry analyst at Paribas in London. "Without Germany, sales would have dropped 10 per cent," he said.

"I'm a little bit astonished that the sales boom in Germany has been so strong," John Lawson, executive director at Nomura Research Institute in London said. "It has helped the industry out of a tough six months in various other European markets."

While sales boom in Germany, other markets have been sliding or treading water. More than four million cars are expected to be sold in Germany this year, up from about 3.3 million in 1990.

But a recession occurring towards 2000, with Japanese firms established, is likely to lead to a big shakeout, Mr. Jones says.

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Italy's Fiat has been V.W.'s main competitor, but companies like Ford, General Motors and Vauxhall have been closing in.

India offers to build nuclear reactors abroad

NEW DELHI (R) — India has offered to build nuclear research reactors in other countries, and Egypt and Syria have shown interest, the chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission has said.

P.K. Iyenger also said tumultuous changes in Moscow had not affected India's plans to import two 1,000-megawatt nuclear power reactors from the Soviet Union.

"We have offered to build five-megawatt capacity nuclear research reactors in foreign countries," he said. "There are countries which are interested in this. Syria and Egypt are among them."

India has the capability to design, build, commission and operate five-megawatt research nuclear reactors, Mr. Iyenger told

an international seminar on small nuclear reactors.

"Such reactor centres can bring scientific principles and engineering practices together. They can provide well-rounded training to personnel," he said.

The changes in the Soviet Union could delay the Soviet plants, now scheduled for 1998/99, Mr. Iyenger said. The plants are part of an ambitious plan to add up to 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power to India's energy supply by the year 2000.

India has built 200-megawatt nuclear reactors using its own designs, and is in the process of standardising a 500-megawatt unit.

Demands for nuclear electricity could rise steeply in the near future if it proved competitive, Mr. Iyenger said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed at their day's low, depressed by falling futures prices and profit-taking. Brokers said investors were also scared off by talk of financial problems at two real estate companies, but added the rumours were used mainly as an opportunity to cash in earnings. The Nikkei average closed down 118.62 points or 0.52 per cent to 22,573.98.

SYDNEY — A lack of leads on the economic front sent Australian share prices lower after a day of lackluster trading. The All Ordinaries index closed at 1,564.5 points, down 7.3.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed lower on late selling in a thin market lacking news. The Hang Seng Index, which eased 8.87 points in the morning, closed 30.37 points or 0.76 per cent lower at 3,940.54.

SINGAPORE — The key Straits Times Industrial Index moved in a tight range throughout the day before closing at 1,421.00, up 0.58 point from Friday's close. On the broader market, declines outpaced gains by 126 to 54.

PARIS — Solid buying in a handful of shares failed to shake the bottom out of its torpor, with the overall market ending lower in anaemic trade. The CAC-40 index fell 4.51 points, or 0.24 per cent, to 1,855.88 on slack trade of 1.4 billion francs.

OECD lauds Mexican success story

PARIS (R) — Ten years after triggering a global crisis by halting payments on its huge foreign debt, Mexico is leading Latin American back to financial respectability, the OECD has said.

Mexico, along with Chile, Venezuela and Colombia benefited from a jump in private capital flows to Latin America in 1990, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its annual report on developing nations.

"The examples of Mexico and Chile indicate how determined adjustment and policy reform efforts can pay off in a major easing of financial constraints," the OECD added.

Commercial banks had played their part, backing up sound economic policies by striking deals to stretch out payments and in some cases cut the debt, the Paris-based economic forum said.

Mexico, which secured a debt reduction deal with banks under the 1989 initiative of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, raised more than \$4 billion on the capital markets in 1990 and attracted strong investment in industry.

It also attracted back money that had fled abroad when investors took fright at its debt stand in 1982.

The OECD was cautiously optimistic on the overall trend in developing countries, noting a continuing recovery in both official development aid and flows of private-sector money.

While some severely indebted countries are still in dire economic shape, the overall debt burden of the developing world was at least not getting much heavier, the OECD said.

Commercial banks had played their part, backing up sound economic policies by striking deals to stretch out payments and in some cases cut the debt, the Paris-based economic forum said.

Provisional 1990 data put the external debt of developing countries up 4.5 per cent at \$1.45 trillion.

Most of the rise was due to exchange rate movements.

Financial flows to the develop-

ing world from all sources, private and official, increased by 16 per cent in 1990 to an estimated \$142 billion, though at constant 1989 prices and exchange rates the increase was a more modest four per cent.

Private flows jumped to \$61 billion from \$48 billion in 1989, despite declines in flows to North Africa and the Middle East.

But the development of low-income countries in Africa in particular still handicapped by the burden of debt and a related shortage of foreign exchange, the OECD said.

However, it said far-reaching debt reduction plans, possibly involving cancellation of up to two-thirds of inter-government debt,

were being discussed by the world's creditor nations and could be finalised this year.

Within that total, the OECD noted a sharp increase in Arab aid to \$7.7 billion resulting from the dislocations in the Middle East due to the Gulf crisis, and a fall to \$3 billion in aid from former communist countries in East Europe.

diverted to eastern Europe and the Middle East had so far proved unfounded.

But international competition for savings was intensifying, with new demands from those two regions as well as strong investment in the more dynamic Asian economies.

As a result, those Latin American and African countries now pulling themselves out of the stagnation of the "lost decade" of the 1980s could well find it hard to attract investors.

Official development flows rose to an estimated \$78 billion in 1990 from \$65 billion in 1989, around 80 per cent of it given on concessional terms.

Within that total, the OECD noted a sharp increase in Arab aid to \$7.7 billion resulting from the dislocations in the Middle East due to the Gulf crisis, and a fall to \$3 billion in aid from former communist countries in East Europe.

man unification in its figures.

In eastern Europe, Poland stood out with an increase in

Croats, Serbs battle for control of Kostajnica

BELGRADE (R) — Fierce fighting between Croats and Serbs for control of the Croatian town of Kostajnica spilled into a second day Monday, Zagreb Radio reported.

"It said casualties were heavy but did not give figures for the number of dead and wounded in the town 80 kilometres south east of Zagreb on the Croatian border with Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Zagreb Radio said Sunday that Serbian guerrillas claimed to have captured Kostajnica's police station.

Guerrillas aiming to expand Serbian territory in breakaway Croatia captured Kostajnica last month but it was retaken within two days by Croatian Security Forces.

Fighting was also reported in villages around Okucani, on the edge of eastern Croatia, which was due to be visited Monday by European Community envoy Henri Wijnands who is trying to enforce a ceasefire.

The EC has deployed ceasefire monitors in a Croatian war zone for the first time since beginning a diplomatic campaign to restore peace between Yugoslavia's feuding republics.

Mr. Wijnands told reporters Sunday that five monitors had been sent to Osijek, the embattled capital of eastern Croatia which is surrounded by Serbian guerrillas and the Yugoslav army.

The monitors went to the city of 150,000, despite repeated violations of a ceasefire signed by the EC with Yugoslav leaders last

Monday, after assurances that they would not be exposed to danger.

Mr. Wijnands, who has spent several days negotiating around Croatia with the warring sides in the conflict, said he was confident they would be safe.

"The ceasefire is extremely fragile and we are not dupes," he said. "But we have seen that if we announce beforehand that we are coming, then there is no shooting."

At least six people were killed Sunday in clashes between Croatian security forces and the guerrillas who are being helped by units of the Yugoslav army.

Fighting continued after an EC peace conference with Yugoslav political leaders Saturday in the Hague which underlined the country's deep ethnic divisions.

EC leaders warned afterwards that the Balkan federation was on the edge of a catastrophe which could engulf all of Europe.

Almost 400 people have been killed since Croatia and the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia declared their independence from Yugoslavia in June.

Croatian independence is being fought by nationalists among its 600,000 Serb minority.

Luka Bebic, Croatia's defence minister, told journalists that the guerrillas controlled about 12 per cent of Croatian territory, a figure diplomats considered low.

He threatened that Croatia would switch onto the offensive if EC efforts failed to bring about a peaceful settlement.



Croatian National Guards defend the town of Sisak. Despite the ceasefire, fighting between Serbs and Croats continues in many areas.

Mr. Bebic said Croatia could field 42,000 police and National Guards against the guerrillas and the army and could also call on 12,000 reservists.

But he acknowledged that the Zagreb government still lacked enough weapons to arm its forces because of an international arms embargo on Yugoslavia.

The Serbian-led army is much better equipped and has war planes and armour to support its professionally-trained infantry.

In the southernmost Republic of Macedonia, 100,000 people celebrated through the night Sunday's vote on independence. Although no official results were expected before Tuesday, the Macedonian capital Skopje was

jammed with crowds who were joined by regional President Kiro Gligorov, the Tanjug News Agency reported.

The vote was expected to be overwhelmingly in favour of independence. Macedonia was the third Yugoslav republic to hold a referendum on independence.

Croatia and Slovenia declared independence June 25 based on similar popular votes. The moves touched off ethnic fighting in Croatia where minority Serbs oppose the state's secession, and led to an army intervention in Slovenia.

Although Macedonia will join Slovenia and Croatia in declaring its sovereignty, state leaders have made it clear they want to remain unaffected by the fighting in neighbouring Croatia.

part of a loose confederation of Yugoslav states.

In a development that could spread hostilities to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Milan Martic, head of the Serb forces in control of the west Croatian region of Krajina, was detained late Sunday by Bosnian police, the Croatian Defence Ministry reported.

He and several compatriots were apparently travelling by car through a patch of Bosnian territory connecting the Serb-held enclaves of Krajina and Banija, Tanjug said.

Bosnia's potentially explosive ethnic mix of Muslims, Serbs and Croats has so far remained unaffected by the fighting in neighbouring Croatia.

57 die in S. Africa township violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 57 people were killed in South African township violence ahead of a peace pact black and white leaders are due to sign next Saturday.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Monday pleaded for peace in black townships after a weekend of bloodshed. Key black organisations reaffirmed their backing for the pact.

Three blacks died in gunfire aboard a commuter train on the outskirts of Johannesburg Monday morning and 17 people were injured when they leaped off another moving train in fear of an attack.

Arch. Tutu, leading black opponent of apartheid and Nobel Peace Prize winner, added his voice to widespread fears that the violence may have been sparked deliberately to torpedo the all-party peace pact.

Police reported at least 54 blacks killed and 101 wounded in township clashes around Johannesburg, the business and industrial heart of the nation, Sunday.

Fighting began when three men with assault rifles ambushed mainly-Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party supporters heading for a political meeting in Thokoza township.

"We are very concerned at the implications of the attack for Saturday's peace summit. It is possible that those who planned the attack intended to derail the summit," Arch. Tutu said in a statement.

"We appeal to the Thokoza and the other... communities to exercise restraint in the coming days. We appeal to the people of God to intensify their prayers for the peace process."

President F.W. de Klerk's white government, the African National Congress (ANC) led by Nelson Mandela and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) have agreed on a draft peace plan designed to end political faction fighting that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the past year.

The ANC and Inkatha, whose supporters have been primarily involved in the bloodshed, Monday said they hoped the latest upsurge would not stop a final accord being signed Saturday, but officials expressed deep suspicion and distrust.

IFP Youth Brigade leader Themba Khoza said the ANC went on the attack and it "looks like it was intended to derail the peace conference."

"The circumstances will determine whether the peace accord will work or not," he added.

ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu reaffirmed his organisation's commitment to peace and appealed for calm.

One ANC official, who asked not to be identified, said there were suspicions within the ANC that Inkatha might be seeking an excuse to pull out of the peace deal.

"One smells a bit of a rat... this is the best way to torpedo talks," the official said.

U.S. military faces eviction from Philippines

MANILA (R) — Philippine senators opposed to a new military bases treaty with Washington won decisive support Monday, making rejection of the pact and a withdrawal of American forces almost inevitable.

Three more senators Monday signed a resolution rejecting the pact as "a one-sided, unequal agreement," giving the anti-bases lobby a majority in the 23-member senate.

Philippine share prices tumbled in anticipation of a rejection of the treaty, with the Manila Composite Index falling 4.4 per cent to close at 958.75, against Friday's close of 1003.22.

"I guess people are beginning to realise that the treaty is going to be rejected," said stock analyst Joseph Roxas of R. Coyuto

Menem to step up reforms after election win

BUEBOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem pledged Monday to press ahead with his free market reforms after his Peronist Party swept Argentina's mid-term election Sunday.

These results are really gratifying," Mr. Menem told reporters at government house. "This wasn't a plebiscite but a vote of the radicals carried the third district at stake. The eight other provinces vote on Oct. 27.

Sunday's tide of Peronist votes far exceeded pollsters' forecasts and contrasted with Mr. Menem's own expectations of a few months ago.

In July Mr. Menem, who had won May 1989 presidential elections by a landslide, expected Peronists to lose in at least seven of the 17 provinces the party has governed since 1987.

Independent surveys were even more sombre, tipping the party to succeed in as few as six of Argentina's 24 districts.

Political analysts credited Mr. Menem's economy minister, Domingo Cavallo, with boosting Peronist's electoral chances.

A party outsider, Mr. Cavallo was switched from the Foreign Ministry to the economy portfolio

backed unconventional candidates: retired Formula One motor racer Carlos Reutemann and former pop singer Ramon "Pito" Ortega.

The Peronists had already won in two of the three provinces that voted on Aug. 11, while the radicals carried the third district at stake. The eight other provinces vote on Oct. 27.

Sunday's tide of Peronist votes far exceeded pollsters' forecasts and contrasted with Mr. Menem's own expectations of a few months ago.

The ruling party led in eight of the 13 districts that voted Sunday, with Mr. Menem's vice president, Eduardo Duhalde, easily winning the key race for governor of Buenos Aires, Argentina's richest and most populous province.

Opposition radical candidates, however, won in the important federal district and the province of Cordoba, where former presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz won his third successive term as governor since 1983.

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President F.W. de Klerk's white government, the African National Congress (ANC) led by Nelson Mandela and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) have agreed on a draft peace plan designed to end political faction fighting that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the past year.

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"One smells a bit of a rat... this is the best way to torpedo talks," the official said.

For example, the FAO report said, Brazil changed laws to remove subsidies that encouraged the clearing of Amazon Forests, and Colombia returned 49.9 million acres (19.96 million hectares) of forests to its indigenous inhabitants.

Amnesty: Burmese army still murders, brutalises minorities

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's army routinely murders and brutalises members of ethnic minorities, it dragoons into working as porters in anti-guerrilla campaigns, Amnesty International reported.

It often uses the porters as human mine-detectors, sending them ahead of troops, the London-based human rights group said in a report received in Bangkok Monday.

Members of the Karen, Mon and Indian minorities are among those the army is alleged to have killed in its campaigns in remote jungle areas, it said.

Amnesty said its researchers gathered evidence in interviews in June and July 1991. Its report focused on abuses since February 1990, when the military junta allowed campaigning for the general election held in May that year.

Since then "thousands of people who campaigned for free and fair elections... have been arrested. Political prisoners have been tortured and detained without trial or imprisoned as a result of unfair trials," it said.

Some of those press-ganged into army service and then beaten or killed had been taken from their homes on suspicion of involvement in armed opposition.

One woman of Indian origin said soldiers took her brother last November from outside a cinema in Thaton, 135 kilometres east of the capital Rangoon. Three days later soldiers told the family he had died but gave no explanation.

A fellow porter later said the man was beaten because he could not manage his load.

Human rights abuse reportedly widespread in China

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian official delegation said Monday that human rights abuse was widespread in China, including torture, frequent use of the death penalty and repression in Tibet.

The 12 politicians, legal and human rights experts and academics who visited Peking and Tibet from July 14 to 26 were the first Western human rights group allowed into China since its June 1989 crackdown on dissidents.

"The delegation deplores the frequent use of capital punishment and was disturbed by the convincing body of evidence that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners is widespread," it said in a report to parliament.

The group was also concerned by "cultural, religious and political repression in Tibet."

Peking maintains that its sovereignty over Tibet dates back to the 13th century.

Its troops entered Tibet in 1950 and overthrew the Buddhist theocracy headed by the Dalai Lama, who fled to India with thousands of followers.

The Australians said they were concerned at the pervasive public security apparatus and state control over the individual. "This is considered to be incompatible with the exercise of fundamental human rights," their report said.

The remaining 30 per cent occurred in Africa's grasslands, where arid and semi-arid zones are being over-used by growing human and animal populations.

Africa's situation is critical, the FAO said. For while forests can recover in humid tropics, but once the protective vegetation is removed in dry areas, the desert moves in.

"Understanding the Amazon and coming up with the proper plan for those forests will not work in Zaire, because the rain forest in South America is quite different from the one in Africa, and similarly, what will work in Zaire will not necessarily work in the Asian forests of Malaysia," said Hollis Murray, of the FAO.

However, he said the Chinese did counter with allegations of abuses against Australian aborigines.

Mr. Schacht said the delegation, which visited prisons on its tour of Peking, Chengdu, Lhasa and Shanghai, had been invited back for a further visit.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bodies of 35 Sri Lankan policemen found

COLOMBO (R) — The bodies of 35 policemen believed to have been killed by Tamil rebels have been found in a mass grave in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said Monday. The bodies, found at Pasikudah in eastern Batticaloa district Sunday, showed gunshot injuries, they said. Last month, the bodies of 20 policemen were found in two graves in the same district. The dead were believed to be some of 600 policemen seized by Tamil rebels who overran several police stations in the east in June last year after abandoning 14 months of peace talks with the government, the sources said. The rebels, fighting for a separate state, attacked an army garrison in central Anuradhapura district Saturday, killing one soldier, the military sources said.

China releases Hong Kong dissident

HONG KONG (R) — China released Monday a Hong Kong man after nearly two years in jail for helping two alleged leaders of China's 1989 pro-democracy movement to try to escape. Luo Haining, 42, was released from a prison in southern Canton "on parole for medical treatment," his wife Zhou Mimi said by telephone from the southern Chinese city. "I just want to thank everyone who cared about me and tried to help me throughout all the time I was in jail," Mr. Luo said. "He is very tired and wants to rest," Mrs. Zhou said of her husband, who has a slight heart problem. "I'm very, very happy," she said.

Hanoi minister arrives in Peking

PEKING (R) — Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam arrived in Peking Monday, after signalling a formal end to more than a decade of hostility by driving across the border through the friendship pass into China. Mr. Cam is the most senior Hanoi official to visit Peking since 1979, when China launched a war against Vietnam as punishment for invading Cambodia. Normalisation of relations between China and Vietnam, which support rival sides in the Cambodian civil war, will speed up the peace process there, diplomats said. Mr. Cam's visit will pave the way for a summit between the leaders of the Vietnamese and Chinese Communist Parties that would put the final seal on rapprochement, political sources in Vietnam said.

Phnom Penh fights off floods

PHNOM PENH (R) — Floods have transformed the outskirts of Phnom Penh into a vast swamp and residents have stacked thousands of sandbags to try to stop the mighty Mekong River from invading the Cambodian capital. The worst flood to hit Cambodia in nearly 40 years has killed about 100 people in the countryside, made 300,000 homeless and ruined 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) of rice paddies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said. An international relief effort was under way for a country already ravaged by years of war and enforced isolation. Phnom Penh municipal authorities ordered sandbags around important buildings and were building a dyke along the river bank to prevent floods swamping the city. The capital lies beside a confluence of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers, which diverge again further downstream. The rivers now resemble a huge lake.

Technical failure caused Lauda crash

BANGKOK (R) — The failure of an engine thrust reverser caused the crash of an Austrian airliner over Thailand in May killing 223 people, the chief accident investigator said Monday. "We reaffirm that the thrust reverser caused the crash," Thai Air Chief Marshal Suthep Theparak told Reuters in Bangkok. He said this explanation was the formal finding of the Thai investigators into how a Lauda Air Boeing 767-300ER crashed into a jungle hillside in central Thailand on May 26 killing all 213 passengers and 10 crew. It was Thailand's worst aviation disaster.

Jet braking systems to be reviewed